

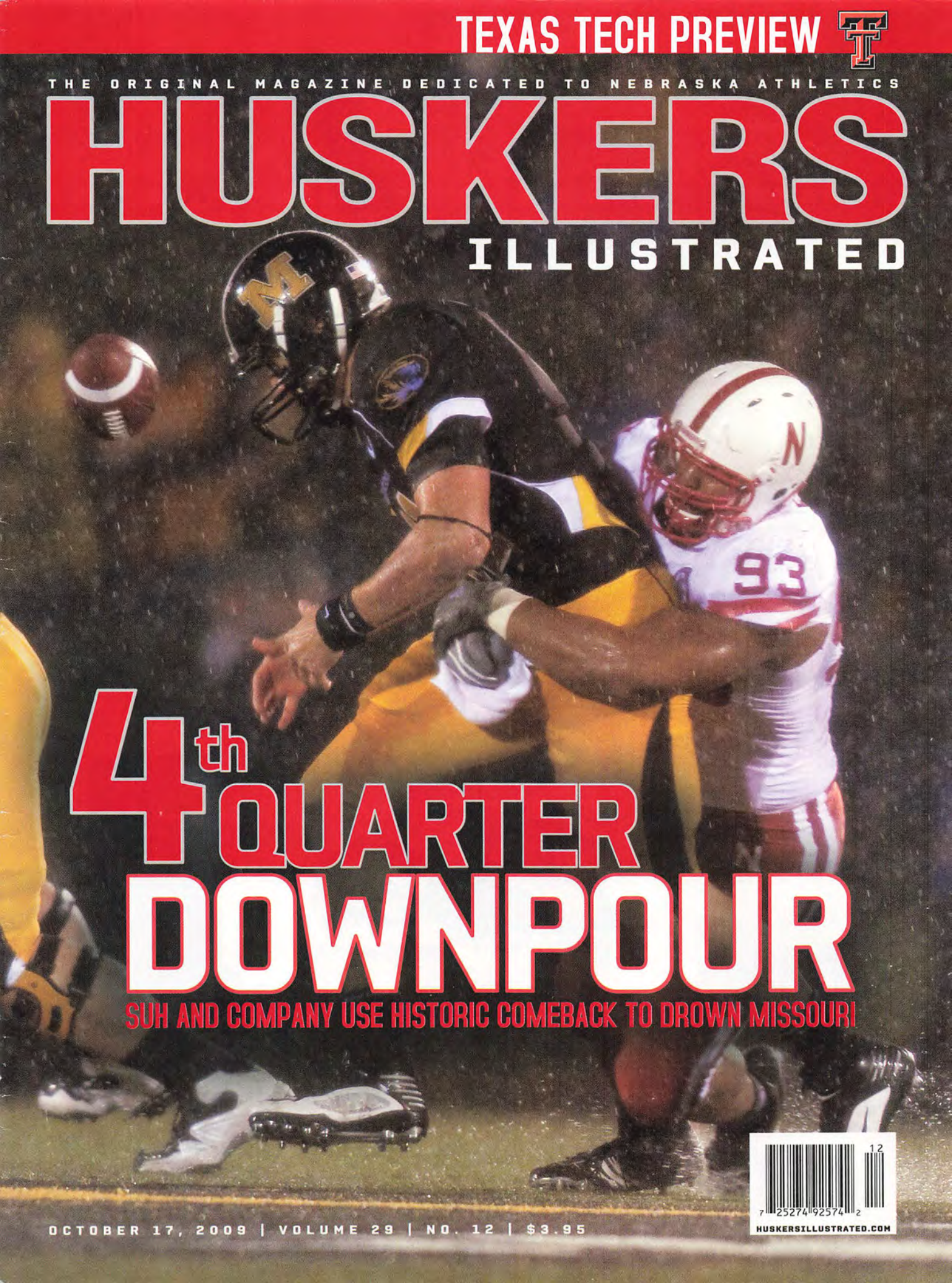
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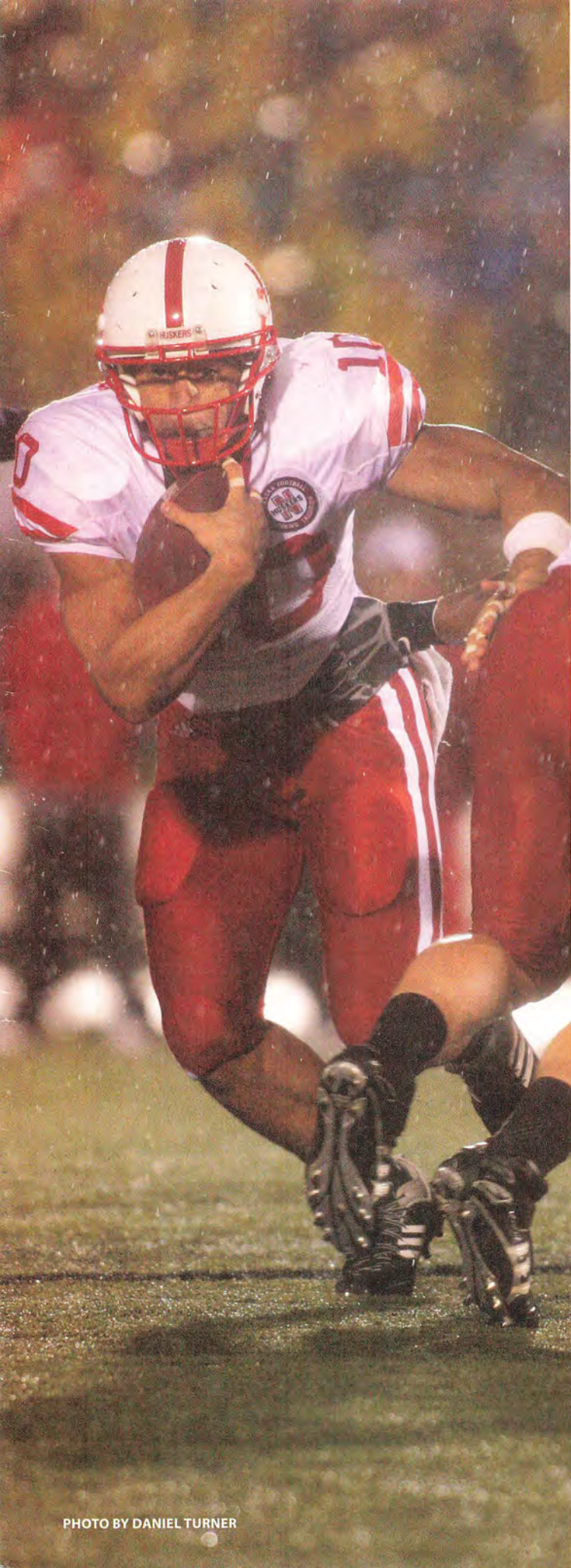
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# HUSKERS

## ILLUSTRATED

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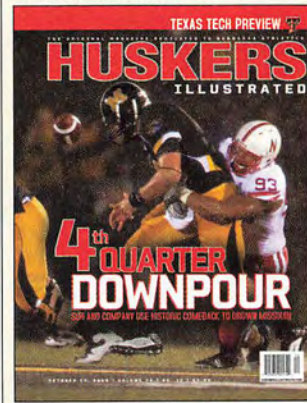
### HUSKERS

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#### ON THE COVER

Ndamukong Suh and the Huskers turned in the largest fourth-quarter road comeback in school history with a 27-12 win over Missouri. Suh's sack of quarterback Blaine Gabbert proved costly as Gabbert not only fumbled the ball, but was injured on the play.

Photo by Aaron Babcock





## MOMENTUM

### Huskers boast wins over every Big 12 North team in the last year



**IT'S SAFE TO SAY** Husker fans haven't seen a win like Nebraska's 27-12 come-from-behind effort in Columbia Thursday night.

That's because in 120 years, the Huskers have never rallied on the road after trailing by 12 points in the fourth quarter. And even if the record books missed one back in the early days of Bugeater football, surely there was never such a comeback as the soggy, splashy rally that happened at Faurot Field.

This game changed directions in just a matter of minutes, and with it, possibly the direction of Nebraska's season. That magical fourth quarter gives Nebraska an early lead in the Big 12 North title chase.

And in case you're interested, that quarter helped Bo Pelini improve to 10-2 since Oct. 18 last season, including wins over every Big 12 North team during that span as well.

It appears the Huskers have a tremendous weapon – momentum.

Momentum is difficult to define in sports. Some buy into, others don't. I personally like professional golfer Rocco Mediate's philosophy.

"As any athlete knows, momentum is the most unstoppable force in sports,"

Mediate once said. "The only way to stop it is if you get in your own way, start making stupid mistakes or stop believing in yourself."

The Huskers almost got in their own way against Missouri on Thursday. They made mistakes. Offensively they were under water. They had too many penalties and did not commit to the run. But one thing they did not do was stop believing in themselves.

This team has come light years in just one year. They play with passion, intensity and a ferociousness that is difficult for opponents to match.

They key moving forward is to learn lessons from the Husker team that showed up for the first three quarters of Thursday's game.

Winning has a tendency to cover up problems. Nebraska is not good enough yet to consistently overcome penalties and mistakes – especially on the road.

But Nebraska has momentum. And if it can continue to build on it, it might ride it all the way to a conference title or a BCS bowl. **N**

*Send me your comments or story ideas to [aaron@huskersillustrated.com](mailto:aaron@huskersillustrated.com).*

**EDITOR,  
GENERAL MANAGER**  
Aaron Babcock

**CONTRIBUTING EDITOR**  
Mike Babcock

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**  
Mike Babcock, Terry Douglass, John Talman, Sean Callahan, Curt McKeever, Steve Sipple, Brian Rosenthal, Randy York, Bob Hamar, Rick Shaw, Sean Stevens, Tommy Dahlk, Evan Bland

**CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS**  
Scott Bruhn, NU Sports Information, Aaron Babcock, Randy Hampton, Brett Hampton and Rivals.com, Daniel Turner

**SPORTS MARKETING  
& ADVERTISING DIRECTOR**  
Tim Francis (800) 524-9527, ext. 111

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Jay Walker of ESPN, 1420 in Lafayette, La., recently blogged on his Husker gameday experience. Here is a portion of his article.

## Lafayette announcer applauds Husker fans

**THIS IS MY 18TH** season covering Cajuns football. And, for eight years before that, I had the opportunity to broadcast selected games on TV as well.

I've been to nine SEC stadiums. I've seen the grove at Ole Miss, experienced the Gator Chomp, the Mississippi State cowbells, been a part of Alabama football in both Birmingham and Tuscaloosa. I've been called "Tigerbait" in Baton Rouge and experienced some pretty good hospitality in South Carolina.

I've said hello to the folks at Illinois and Minnesota. Felt September heat in Tempe, Ariz.

Been to Manhattan, Lubbock, Austin, Stillwater and College Station. College Station was probably the best. Folks say "Howdy" when they see you. And they say "welcome."

Haven't been to the Horseshoe, the Big House or Happy Valley. Nor have I seen Touchdown Jesus.

But I've been to College Football Nirvana.

It's located in Lincoln, Nebraska.

From the time we touched down ("Welcome to Lincoln," the police officers doing the escort said) to the time we left the stadium ("Thanks so much for coming, have a safe trip home. We hope you'll come back again") every Cajun fan felt like a guest.

That's right. A guest. Not the

opposition....not the enemy....a guest.

Check into the Cornhusker Marriott, not far from campus. Fans of Big Red Nation are already there. Smiles, handshakes....welcome to Lincoln. Good luck tomorrow.

Board the bus for dinner. Arrive at Misty's, Lincoln's famous steakhouse (I mean, you gotta eat a steak, right?). As soon as the patrons saw the Cajun gear, they wanted to

By the time the band was ready to come out, 86000 strong were in their seats. They stood and clapped along when the Cornhusker Band played "Fight on Cajuns" to honor their guests. And when the band played "There is no Place Like Nebraska" I knew that the statement was true.

For the first time ever in my years covering the Cajuns, I did not hear a single boo when the Cajuns came out of their tunnel

stayed for another Cornhusker tradition. They applauded the Cajuns as they left the field.

Now you might say...sure, it's easy to clap for someone when you just beat them 55-0. But they do that when their team LOSES. The newspaper on Saturday morning reprinted a handwritten letter from Florida State coach Bobby Bowden after the Seminoles got a hard fought 18-14 win years ago. Yep, the Nebraska fans cheered them as they left.

More of the same post game. There was a young man in a wheelchair where the Cajun players were getting their postgame meal. As each player came out, the young man thanked them for coming and wished them safe travels home. Many of the players stopped to chat for a minute.

Then it was over. And, as the buses left for the airport, the fans that were still there waved and applauded. No one finger salutes. No "you suck" chants. Simply, safe travels, my friends.

If the two teams should play again in the future, plan ahead Cajun Fans. Make the long drive or the relatively short flight. Come in Friday...leave Sunday. And, you will learn what REAL college football atmosphere is about.

Because, trust me....there is no place like Nebraska.

**JAY WALKER**  
Lafayette, La.

---

**"I've been to College Football Nirvana. It's located in Lincoln, Nebraska."**

---

talk...introduce themselves.... welcome to Lincoln....thanks so much for coming. Hope you enjoy the game....

Is this for real??

And, it continued throughout the evening and into the night. We made lots of friends. We Cajun people make friends pretty easily, but it's even easier when folks want to be friends.

In Lincoln, they all want to be your friend.

By the time Nebraska came out, about 45 minutes before kickoff, the stadium was about 65 percent full. There was no "hey, let's stay outside and pound a few more beers."

Because it was gameday. And they came to see football.

onto their sidelines; in fact, I heard a smattering of applause.

During the game, 86,000 cheered as Nebraska rolled. They didn't leave at halftime to go out and start drinking (and remember it was 34-0 at the half). Some were outside, but they had passes to get back in and by the time the second half was ready to kick off, they were all back in their seats.

In the fourth quarter there were STILL over 80,000 in the stands. Security keeps an eye out for the sign of alcohol in the stands, which is how trouble starts. If they see alcohol they don't turn a blind eye. After all, college football is about a FAMILY atmosphere.

And when it ended, the fans



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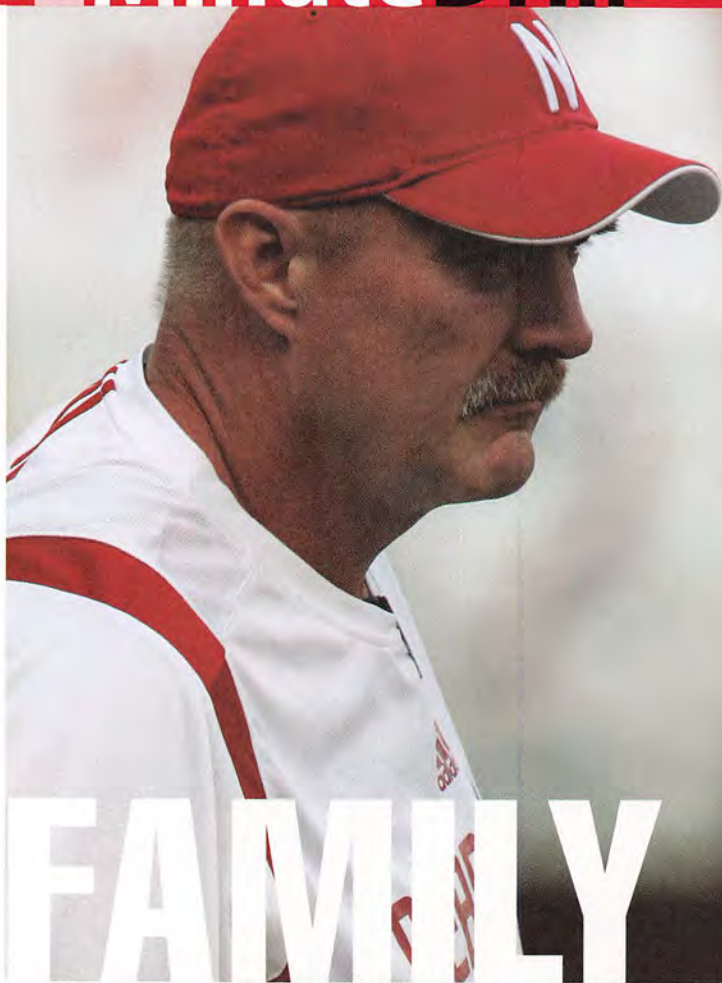
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# 2MinuteDrill



## FATHER-SON COMBOS

TYSON CLARK, WR, FR.  
BRET CLARK, S (1983-83-84)

SEAN FISHER, LB, RFR.  
TODD FISHER, CB (1983)

KC HYLAND, WR, RFR.  
JOHN HYLAND, DE (1970-71-72)

MICAH KREIKEMEIER, LB, RFR.  
KEITH KREIKEMEIER, OG (EARLY 1980s)

JAY MARTIN, TE, SO.  
BOB MARTIN, DE (1973-74-75)

BRENT MORAVEC, S, RFR.  
MARK MORAVEC, FB (1980-81-82)

COLE PENSICK, DL, FR.  
DAN PENSICK, DT (1977-78-79)

COLBY STARKEBAUM, LB, FR.  
JOHN STARKEBAUM, LB (1972-73-74)

BAKER STEINKUHLER, DL, RFR.  
DEAN STEINKUHLER, OG (1981-82-83)

# FAMILY GAME

**B**ARNEY COTTON appreciates the opportunity. "It's pretty cool," Nebraska's offensive line coach said. "I know before the game, it's kind of nice to go get a hug and a handshake and after the game to go get a hug and a handshake and 'I love you,' and stuff like that. So that's a pretty special thing."

Cotton's son, **BEN**, is a redshirted freshman tight end, of course.

Because he isn't Ben's position coach, "we have a little interaction, but really no more so than with other players," Barney Cotton said. "But then, being able to have a guy be able to stop by the office, because he doesn't live at home anymore . . . that's a good feeling."

Ben Cotton, who went to high school

in Ames, Iowa, originally planned to go to Iowa State, where his dad was offensive coordinator on Dan McCarney's staff. When the staff was let go, however, Ben's plans changed. He was set to attend Louisville before Nebraska contacted him.

"Had it been anybody else other than Nebraska, I'm not so sure he would have changed his mind," said Barney, who grew up in Omaha and attended Burke High School. "It's a little bit different having lived here, Grandma and Grandpa live here . . . knowing that his dad played here.

"He made a fairly quick turnaround when that opportunity became available to him."

Barney wasn't involved in Nebraska's recruiting his son. "I came back, and Bo

(Pelini) asked, 'Show us some film of that son of yours,' so it was something where they evaluated him and they determined he was worthy to be here. I stayed out of it. They watched the film, and they made that decision."

Barney is happy not only that Ben is at Nebraska but also that Ben's position coach is **RON BROWN**. "Having Ben coached by a guy that's not only a great coach but a great man, to have him be mentored by something like that, it's pretty easy for me to just stand by and watch," Barney said.

Ben Cotton is among 10 current Cornhuskers who have followed fathers to Nebraska. Barney Cotton played both offensive and defensive line (1976-77-78). The others are listed above:



# 2MinuteDrill



**OUT BUT NOT DONE:** Senior safety **RICKEY THENARSE** has been lost for the season after suffering a knee injury in the first quarter of the Louisiana-Lafayette game. But coach **BO PELINI** is optimistic about the chances of Thenarse being granted a medical redshirt and an additional season of eligibility.

That wouldn't be determined until after this season, however.

## INDESCRIBABLE

Nebraska's NCAA-record, home-sellout streak is a tribute to Husker fans, whom quarterback **ZAC LEE** commended prior to the season. "Nebraska fans are there for you (through) thick and thin, which is something special because it's not like that everywhere," he said.

"When they say there's no place like Nebraska, it's true because of the fans. I don't even have enough adjectives to describe how great they are. They're there for you no matter what."

## THE CLOSER

Junior place-kicker and now punter **ALEX HENERY** doesn't get rattled by much. "He's kind of like a closer in baseball," said quarterback **ZAC LEE**. "You look at guys who just come in and

just make pitches consistently, just do it because it's their job. That's kind of how Alex is.

"He knows his job is to kick field goals, and he's real good at it."

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Cornhusker receivers coach **TED GILMORE** rewards effort, according to junior wide receiver **NILES PAUL**. "He always tell us, 'The way you practice is what you're going to get out of it.' Like if we practice hard every day, he gives everyone a fair shot, from the younger guys on up," Paul said.

"Everybody gets a fair shot. And if he puts you in and you, basically, piss down your leg, then **COACH GILMORE** will tell you (that) you pissed down your leg. So he gives everybody a fair shot."

## SIDELINES



### GOOD HANDS

Redshirted freshman fullback **TYLER LEGATE** scored his first touchdown at Nebraska in the second game of the season, against Arkansas State, teaming with **ZAC LEE** on a 3-yard pass.

Legate is the first read on the play, "spider six." He saw the linebacker "come down, and I knew I was going to be wide-open," he said. "I was like, 'Oh no, I've got to catch this.'"

"I knew if I caught it, I could just walk in (the end zone)."

Legate worked on his receiving skills during the summer, "just working on my hands," he said.

"That's one thing I had to improve on from the spring."

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## NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Start spreading the news. Yankee Stadium will be home to an NCAA college football bowl game beginning in 2010, matching teams from the Big 12 and the Big East Conferences.

The Big 12's seventh selection will get the bid, against the Big East's third or fourth selection in the not-yet-named bowl game, played between Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Nebraska defeated Miami 36-34 in the last bowl game at Yankee Stadium. The second and last Gotham Bowl was played there on Dec. 15, 1962, to benefit the March of Dimes.

Because of a newspaper strike and a pro

football game in New York later that day, the Gotham Bowl was sparsely attended. The official attendance was 6,166. If accurate, Cornhusker coach **BOB DEVANEY** quipped, many of those 6,166 came dressed as empty seats.

## IT'S NOT HOOPS

Certainly, senior defensive tackle **NDAMUKONG SUH** draws special attention from opposing offensive coordinators. He has to deal with double-team blocking.

But "it's not like man-to-man defense where they can . . . it's not basketball, where I can sit there and I'm going to put a box-and-one on him," coach **BO PELINI** said.

## SIDELINES

### TOM'S BOOK

Though the focus isn't football, **TOM OSBORNE'S** recently released fourth book, "Beyond the Final Score: There's More to Life Than the Game," is a must-read for Husker fans. Osborne writes about a variety of topics from his time in Congress and run for governor of Nebraska to leadership and mentoring, from serving others to fishing and family. There is football, too.

On picking a replacement for **BILL CALLAHAN**, as athletic director, Osborne writes: "Telling **TURNER (GILL)** that I was not going to hire him was one of the hardest things I have had to do."

### QUICK STUDY

Freshman quarterback **CODY GREEN** has played without redshirting. He's been quick on the up-take, prompting offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach **SHAWN WATSON** to remark, during pre-season camp: "I just told him he's done more than any freshman I've ever had. He really has. We put more on him, and he's really done well. He's where he should be as far as knowledge-wise."

An indication has been Watson's assertion that Green is now **ZAC LEE'S** competition in practice. During the spring and pre-season camp, Watson said he was Lee's competition.



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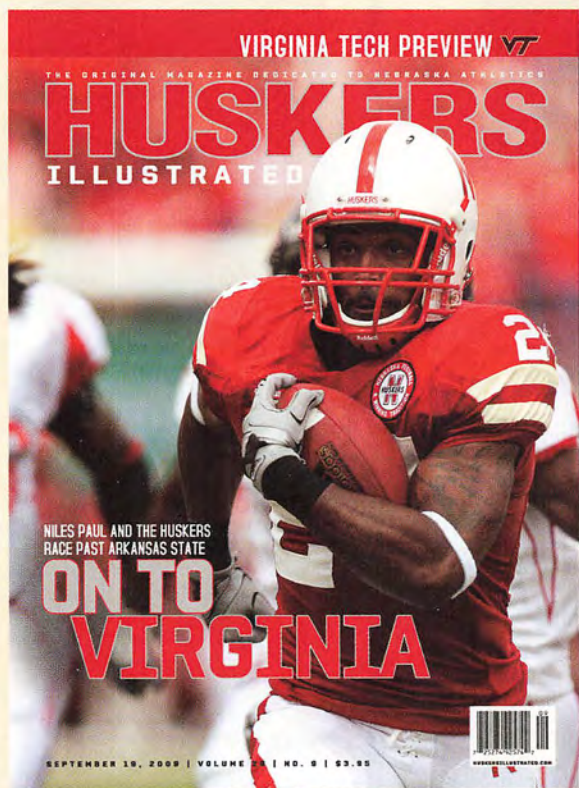
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# 2MinuteDrill



## WE'RE TALKING ABOUT PRACTICE, MAN

**ROY HELU, JR.** has always been a good practice player, according to running backs coach **TIM BECK**. But Beck never watched the junior from Danville, Calif., practice in high school. "I didn't like practice at all," Helu said. "You ask my high school coach, he'd probably call me lazy in some areas."

That changed when he got to Nebraska. At first, "I just ran hard," said Helu.

"And then when I started learning more playing for Christ and how you have a whole bunch of talents and you want to use all of them and your ability to become a better athlete, I think that helped me step my game up and my desire to become the

best that I can be."

A lot of players go through that in the transition from high school, according to Helu.

"Some guys still don't get it," he said during pre-season camp. "Our team as a whole gets it."

When he was a freshman in 2007, "that team didn't get it," Helu said. "But the way we practice now, (we) certainly get it."

## GAME TIME ANNOUNCED

The Big 12 Conference announced that Nebraska's game with Texas Tech on Oct. 17 will kick off at 2:30 p.m. (CDT) and will be televised to a regional audience on ABC.

## SIDELINES



## EA SPORTS, IT'S NOT IN THE GAME

In case you haven't been following **SAM KELLER** (pictured) since he finished his injury-shortened one season at Nebraska, the former quarterback is in an on-going legal battle with Electronic Arts, Inc. and the NCAA over use of images of college football and basketball players in video games.

The Associated Press recently reported that NFL Hall of Famer players **HERB ADDERLEY** and **JIM BROWN** were attempting to support Keller.



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## Helu could rank among Husker greats

**N**ever mind that **ROY HELU, JR.** rushed for 169 yards on 28 carries against Virginia Tech. The Cornhuskers lost, which was all that mattered to the junior I-back.

"It's in the past. I don't want to talk about it," Helu said the next week.

Despite his performance on the national stage provided by network television, "don't care, not at all," he said. "It's about Nebraska. It's about the 'N' on the side of our helmets.

"It's not about individualism, not at all."

Humility and religious faith are Helu's Hallmarks.

"He's always been humble, and he's always been a hard-working guy," said running backs coach **TIM BECK**. "I don't have to scream and yell at Roy. He's one of those guys you just tell him once and he knows. You can talk to him. He's mature enough to be able to do it."

What Helu did during non-conference play is to lead Big 12 rushers. In four games, he carried 73 times for 464 yards and five touchdowns, averaging 6.4 yards per carry.

And though he avoids personal accolades the way he avoids would-be tacklers in the open field, he has shown he could rank among Nebraska's best ball carriers by the time he finishes.

Helu could establish himself as one of the best not just in the conference but nationally, according to Beck. "He'll get that (recognition); I really believe that,"

### SINGLE-SEASON RUSHING YARDS, JUNIORS

PLAYER	G	Att.	Yds	TD	Ave.
Ahman Green (1997)	12	278	1,877	22	6.75
Mike Rozier (1982)	12	242	1,689	15	6.98
Ken Clark (1988)	12	232	1,497	12	6.45
Jammal Lord (2002)	14	251	1,412	8	5.63
Dahrran Diedrick (2001)	11	233	1,299	15	5.58
Doug DuBose (1985)	10	203	1,161	8	5.72
Cory Ross (2004)	11	207	1,102	6	5.32
Roger Craig (1981)	11	173	1,060	6	6.13
Calvin Jones (1993)	9	185	1,043	12	5.64
Jarvis Redwine (1979)	11	148	1,042	9	7.04

said Beck.

"I think if he continues to work hard and continues to be grounded and do the things he needs to do, and he'll play well throughout the year, which is going to

help our

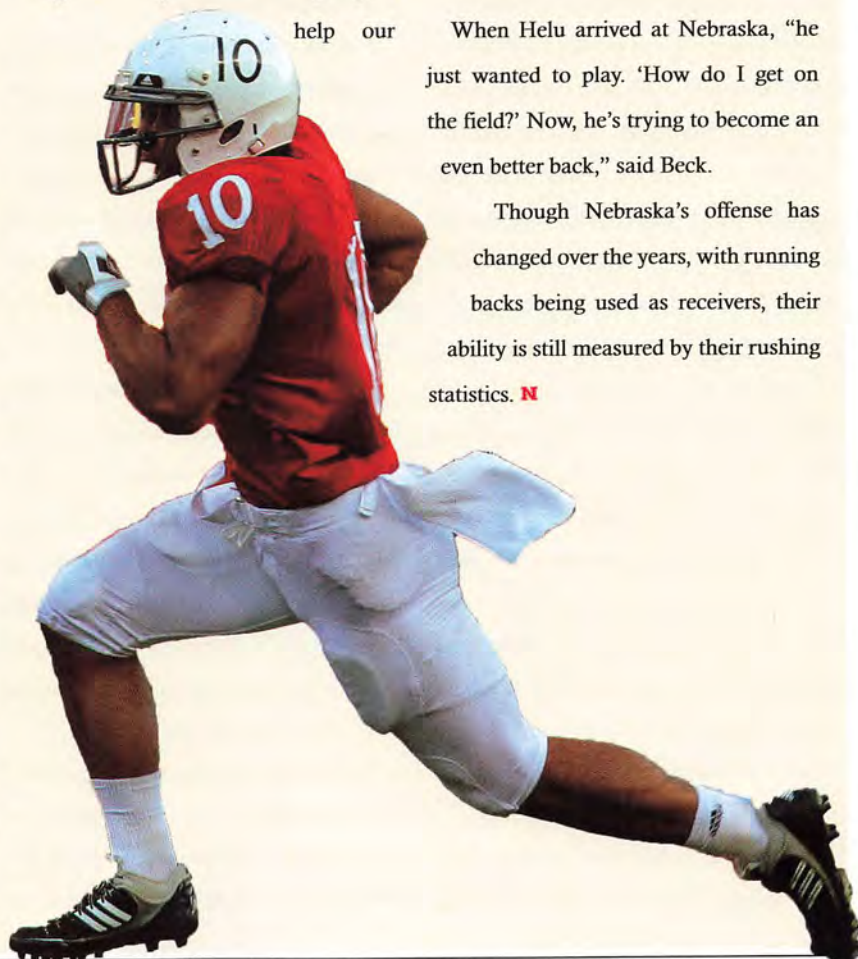
team, and your team's winning and he's playing well and carrying the load for us, he's going to get recognized."

Individual success is tied to team success.

"I think it's a full circle," Beck said.

When Helu arrived at Nebraska, "he just wanted to play. 'How do I get on the field?' Now, he's trying to become an even better back," said Beck.

Though Nebraska's offense has changed over the years, with running backs being used as receivers, their ability is still measured by their rushing statistics. **N**







**READING  
THE  
FIELD**  
BY JOE GANZ

## Standing on the sidelines no easy task

**THE IDEA OF GIVING** up the dream of playing professional football is really tough, but it's not really my choice, so I'm dealing with it. Pro football is just a tough business to get into. As much as I'd like to keep playing, with the Arena Football League going under, it's difficult to find a place to play.

It's especially disappointing when you see some of these back-up quarterbacks in the NFL come in and play and not do very well. Obviously, I still wish that somebody would give me a shot, but it's a difficult situation if you're not 6-foot-4 and 240 pounds, and I didn't really seem to get much respect for my senior season that I had at Nebraska. But it is what it is.

Then you see a guy like Josh (Freeman), who you've out-played twice and he hasn't done very well, and he was a first-round NFL draft pick. It's frustrating, but that's just how the NFL is. You can't blame them because if they take a chance on somebody who's my size as opposed to Josh Freeman and it doesn't work out, then they'll take a lot of heat for taking somebody like me instead of taking someone like him. I understand it, but it's still frustrating.

I did get an e-mail from a head coach who wanted me to come play in Sweden

for a year and it crossed my mind — just because I think it would be cool to get a free year in Sweden to play football — but right now the plan is to meet with Nebraska head coach Bo Pelini and offensive coordinator Shawn Watson about starting to coach next season. Depending upon what happens with that meeting, I think I'll probably just try to start my coaching career.

I think coaching is something that I'd really enjoy doing. You're always coaching on the field and when you're a quarterback, it's almost kind of innate in you. I've always enjoyed watching film and breaking other teams down and coming up with new ways to attack defenses.

I'll admit that coaching is something I never really thought about doing for real before because I was just so focused on playing, but now it's something that I'd love to do, and to work with the guys Nebraska has on staff now would be really cool. These coaches are guys I really get along with, and it would be a good environment to be in. A lot of people just starting out in coaching would dream of an opportunity to be a graduate assistant at a place like Nebraska, so I think that would be a real

step ahead for me in my career.

Being a quarterback, I think I might have the ability to see things a little differently than other people who haven't played the position at a big-time program like Nebraska and who haven't had as great of coaching as I had under Coach Watson. I think I can instill what he's instilled in me into a lot of players and still be have my own style of coaching and have my own personality shine through. I'd hope that I have the personality where guys would like me, respect me and want to work hard for me.

Even though I'm not playing football, this fall has been fun, having a semester off and just being a normal 23-year-old kid. I've been getting to do things I never got to do in college like tailgating with your friends and even some former teammates.

Right now, I don't have much to worry about all week, and I can enjoy the game on Saturday, although I've found that I'm more nervous watching than I was playing. Even though I know nearly all the current players, you become a fan and you're kind of on the edge of your seat. This fall has definitely been an adjustment, but I'm dealing with it the best I can and really trying to enjoy myself. **N**



# HUSKERS

## ILLUSTRATED

## TEAMSTORE



# COMING SOON!







# N

## SCOTTSBLUFF, NE



**TRAVIS TURNER** didn't play against Oklahoma in 1981. But he was in Norman, Okla., that day, and his presence was noteworthy. Turner was a true freshman walk-on, and a quarterback.

He had helped lead coach **FRANK SOLICH**'s freshman team to a 5-0 record that season, and because sophomore Turner Gill suffered a season-ending leg injury the week before during the second half of a victory against Iowa State, coach Tom Osborne had Turner flown to Norman, just in case.

Turner redshirted in 1982 and played briefly in 1983, before competing with senior Craig Sundberg for the job as Gill's successor in 1984, Turner's most productive season.

He took over as the starter at mid-season, directing five victories in the final six conference games and finishing with 10 rushing touchdowns. The 10 rushing touchdowns were one short of the school record for a quarterback, set by Gill the previous season. Turner also led the team in scoring with 60 points, the first quarterback to do so since Dennis Claridge in 1962.

**DID YOU KNOW?** The late **BROOK BERRINGER** was born in Scottsbluff...the family moved to Goodland, Kan., after his father died...Nearby Scotts Bluff National Monument, according to the county Web site, was a "natural landmark and resting place for pioneers on their way to Oregon and California..." **ROY PETSCH** was a key player on the 1941 Rose Bowl team. His nickname was "Cowboy." The team traveled to the Camelback Inn in Phoenix, Ariz., to prepare. During the stay there, the Huskers attended a rodeo, in which Petsch wanted to compete. Coach **BIFF JONES** said no. **N**

### SCOTTSBLUFF, NE

**County:** Scotts Bluff

**Population:** 14,785

**Distance from Lincoln:** 370 miles

### NU Football lettermen:

\*Frosty Anderson, SE (1971-72-73)  
 Alex Cochrane, Jr., E (1946-47-48)  
 Frank Collopy, Jr., FB (1944-46-47-48)  
 Don Comstock, HB (1954)  
 William Comstock, E (1960-61-62)  
 Larry Donovan, E (1960-62)  
 Gerald Ferguson, HB (1948-49-50)  
 James Heldt, G (1934-35)  
 \*Roy Petsch, QB (1938-39-40)  
 Brandon Quintt, S (1997)  
 Alec Schneider, E (1945)  
 Warren Scoggan, T (1931)  
 John Selzer, HB (1944)  
 Milton Selzer, HB (1914-16)  
 John C. Stevenson, G (1944)  
 Travis Turner, QB (1984-85)  
 Robert Whitmore, G (1926-27)  
 Jamie Worden, WB (1987-88)  
 Floyd Wright, HB (1919-20-21)

## SIDELINES

### ACCOUNTABILITY

Senior or freshman, junior or sophomore, every player has a responsibility to his teammates. "We have to hold everybody accountable at a high level, just because everybody's not going to have a good day," said junior offensive guard **KEITH WILLIAMS**. "And that day that you need, maybe, a kick in the butt to get going... it could come from a freshman. It could come from anybody.

"We've just got to (be) accountable at a high level."

### GOT'R DONE

Yes, Virginia Tech's **JASON WORILDS** is one of the best defensive ends in college football. And yes, the junior from Cateret, N.J., was credited with five quarterback hurries against Nebraska. But Cornhusker offensive tackle **MARCEL JONES** held his own against Worlds, according to **JACOB HICKMAN**.

Jones "really shut him down when it was one-on-one," said Hickman. "That's something I haven't seen anyone else in the country do, so he (Jones) deserves a lot of credit.

"Just playing one-on-one, tackle versus him,



# HUSKERS

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# Adi Kunalic

6-0, 190, Junior, Place-kicker, Fort Worth, Texas

**HI: How much grief do you get being a kicker on a college football team?**

KUNALIC: I think I get a lot of respect from the guys because I'm really competitive in the weight room. Since we all do the same thing as athletes – like run together and all these different things – I get really competitive with all the guys. So I think they look at me more as a football player than a kicker.

**HI: What would be the ideal way to balance you and Alex Henery?**

KUNALIC: I just like to support him. I think when I compete against him in practice it makes him better and keeps me kicking good field goals so in case anything ever happens I can back him up and be that good kicker.

**HI: What is your relationship like with Alex?**

KUNALIC: It's great. We hang out a lot. But when we do kick, I think we both know to get competitive. I think we have a good friendship outside of football.



**HI: What's life like as an established personality at Nebraska?**

KUNALIC: I used to get recognized a lot. But I don't go downtown or anything like that and I don't really go out to too many places. But then again, I don't really wear Husker gear or stuff like that. I think if I did that more then it would be easier. But every now and then I'll have somebody say something to me or yell something at me.

**HI: If you had to pick between college football and Major League Soccer, which would it be?**

KUNALIC: Oh man, I don't know. First of all, I'd never play in MLS because that's just boring soccer. I like soccer, but this (football) is awesome. This is the sport to play in America, and I love it. It's one thing when you're just doing it because you like it and it's another thing when you do it because you love kicking every day.

**HI: How do you respond when people say kicking is easy?**

KUNALIC: Oh my God. You have to practice a lot to stay consistent. Yeah, anything is easy if you practice a lot and get good at it, but I think at the same time I could say that about an offensive lineman too. People don't know that every little detail matters when you kick a field goal and when you kick off. It's like when you watch golf players – they make it look pretty easy, but have you ever tried playing?

**HI: What sold you on coming to Nebraska?**

KUNALIC: I came up here on my official recruiting visit and (former Husker) Zach Potter was my host. He showed me a great time, and I knew this was the school for me even before that. At first, I just had a really good relationship with coach (Shawn) Watson every time he came down. I made the commitment pretty early because I wanted to come up here.

**HI: Do you plan on kicking at the next level?**

KUNALIC: I don't know. I kind of live the way that everything happens for a reason, and I just kind of go with the flow. I'll be working my butt off with everything I do and my field goals and hopefully I'll get a try at (the NFL).

**HI: What's the funniest joke you've heard recently?**

KUNALIC: I don't think this team is so much about the jokes people tell as just everyone being funny in their own way. That's all we do when we're in the locker room is laugh about different things. A lot of the humor is there that other people wouldn't understand, I guess you could say.

**HI: You are a notoriously laid-back guy off the field. What irks you?**

KUNALIC: I don't like when people are late, like if we have workouts in the morning or something. That's one thing that gets me, because I know that we all get up at the same time. So when somebody runs in late – and it doesn't happen a lot – it just bugs me because I'm always here a lot earlier than everybody else.





# DERRIE NELSON

Still investing himself emotionally

**TALK ABOUT HEARING** your heart beat in slow motion, especially 30 years later.

Ask Derrie Nelson to describe his most memorable game against Missouri, and Nebraska's All-America walk-on defensive end can still recount almost every second leading up to the last play of the Huskers' 23-20 great escape from Columbia, Mo., in 1979.

With legendary quarterback Phil Bradley directing the drive, Mizzou had driven to Nebraska's 8-yard line with 3 seconds to play. The Tigers called a timeout to decide whether to kick a field goal and tie the unbeaten Huskers on that November day or to go for the win.

They chose to go for the win, and that meant Nelson was going after Bradley, on one leg.

"I'd blown out my ankle two plays before, so I was hobbling," Nelson recalled. "During the timeout, I told Jimmy Williams I couldn't cover Bradley on the wide side, so I was going to take the short side and blitz with everything I had in me."

The film is still frozen in Nelson's mind. "I went flat through the tight end in front of me and started chasing Bradley down from his blind side. He never saw me coming," Nelson said. "I caught his left arm on the back of his helmet

and his shoulder pad. I snapped him straight down. The ball flew out, and we got it and went straight down. Game over. Revenge accomplished."

Today, Nelson's tackle would be considered an illegal "horse collar." Back then, though, such a tackle was fair game, and Nebraska needed something big to happen physically, especially after Bradley had helped engineer a 35-31 upset of Nebraska the previous year after the Huskers had upset No. 1 Oklahoma, 17-14, the week before in Memorial Stadium – perhaps the biggest home victory in an NCAA streak of 300 consecutive sellouts.

Nelson will never forget how Bradley, James Wilder and Kellen Winslow spoiled the Huskers' 1978 season and



## MIKE TRANMER

**LETTERS:** 1978-79-80

**POSITION:** Defensive end

**CURRENT:** Residential therapeutic specialist for children's behavior, Epworth Village, York, Neb.

**RESIDENCE:** Fairmont, Neb.

forced the Huskers into an Orange Bowl rematch with Oklahoma.

"I give Missouri credit for going for the win," Nelson said. "When they made that decision, I said to myself: 'No, not today. Not again.' We weren't going to leave Columbia with another loss."

After the season, Nelson received a video highlight reel. "I don't know when I've watched that play on video, but I've seen it hundreds of times in my mind," he said. "It's been 30 years. I just may get it out and watch it again."

It'll remind Nelson of the "controlled rage we played with back then," he said.

It will also remind him of how he still must control himself emotionally as a residential therapeutic specialist for children's behavior at Epworth Village in York, Neb. "I see that (controlled rage) coming back to the Blackshirts," Nelson said. "It's fun to watch, isn't it?" **N**





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## STATE OF THE HUSKERS

BY CURT MCKEEVER

# 5 reasons Nebraska will win North

**ANYONE WHO THINKS** the Big 12 North Division race is more than a three-team field sees something in Kansas State, Iowa State and Colorado that escapes the rest of us. That or else they're blinded by loyalty.

Any way, as I write this, the Big 12 opener between Nebraska and Missouri is less than 48 hours away. That is noted, because I'm about to provide reasons why the Huskers should wind up with a trip to Arlington, Texas, for the Big 12 championship game.

By now, you know whether Bo Pelini's bunch has a leg up on the Tigers or is in need of some help in order to reach the top of the North. Obviously, the road will be easier if they're sitting 1-0. But if the mark is 0-1, I still think the road will favor them.

**REASON NO. 1:** They entered Big 12 play with the No. 1 scoring defense in the nation.

While Pelini had yet to hand out the coveted Blackshirts, there's little question that Nebraska has its best defense going back to at least the 2003 unit he coordinated.

NU allowed no more than 16 points to any of its first four opponents -- and only 28 total. The last time the Huskers had a four-game streak of allowing 20 points or less was when the 2003 club gave up no more than 14 points in each of its first five games.

As impressive as NU has been on offense, teams that have dominating defenses are less likely to have off weeks,

thus, their chances of winning increase.

**REASON NO. 2:** The schedule.

Suddenly, Oklahoma -- with offensive line problems, and injuries to Heisman trophy-winning quarterback Sam Bradford, tight end Jermaine Gresham and wide receiver Ryan Broyles -- looks more ordinary than national title contender. The Sooners will still be tough defensively, but no longer is the Nov. 7 game in Lincoln one you think the Huskers can't win.

Another team with questions is Texas Tech, which will come to Lincoln with no fewer than two losses, and with a quarterback coming back from a concussion.

Nebraska's trip to Baylor also looks less daunting now that quarterback Robert Griffin, possibly the most indispensable player there is in the league, is out with a torn ACL.

It won't be surprising, then, if the Huskers head to Kansas on Nov. 14 in first place. By then, the Jayhawks will have played Oklahoma and at Texas Tech, and after facing NU they'll finish with a trip to Texas and a neutral-site game against Missouri.

The Tigers are at Oklahoma State this Saturday and play host to Texas the following one. In both cases, they'll be underdogs.

**REASON NO. 3:** Confidence is everything.

It started with last season's 6-1 stretch run and continued at Virginia Tech. Nebraska gave that one away at the end but came away more determined -- and

perhaps even gained a bit of swagger.

"This season more so than the previous years I've been here, it's kind of one of those things where guys feel like going in we're a pretty good team, we can win a lot of these games," center Jacob Hickman said. "There's no one on our schedule that we can't beat if we play the right way. I think that's something that I don't know if everybody believed to that extent (in) previous years."

**REASON NO. 4:** Nebraska is moving forward each week, and unlike last season the Huskers are already pretty good before they reach the halfway point of the season.

That can be attributed to the Huskers having a mature approach about dealing with what's immediately in front of them. As we saw after the loss to Virginia Tech, there was absolutely no hangover.

"I love the attitude of this football team," Pelini said.

**REASON NO. 5:** (this one's for you superstitious folks): No team has won three straight North Division titles.

Nebraska couldn't do it in 1998. Colorado couldn't do it in 2003 and 2006, and now Missouri's up.

Scratch the Tigers, and you've got Nebraska and Kansas. I could see the Jayhawks winning that head-to-head match-up, too. But in the end, even that shouldn't matter. I see the caravan to "Jerry World" (the nickname for the new Cowboys Stadium) beginning north of the Kansas border. **N**



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# Paul breaks free

**T**railing Missouri 12-0 early in the fourth quarter at rain-drenched Faurot Field, the situation looked bleak for Nebraska.

The Cornhuskers had gained just 109 yards of total offense through three quarters and quarterback Zac Lee struggled to a 9-of-27 passing start for 79 yards. Not only had Nebraska failed to score, but it hadn't even really threatened.

"We just needed something small just to spark us," Nebraska defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh said.

What the Huskers needed, Lee and wide receiver Niles Paul delivered. On a third-and-8 play, Paul broke free over the middle on a deep post pattern and

Lee found him for a 56-yard touchdown strike that suddenly seemed to turn the tide, cutting Missouri's lead to 12-7 with 13:56 to play after Alex Henery's point-after kick.

"That was a huge spark," Suh said. "I think that was really the turning point to this game. It got us all fired up, even though at that point, we were still down."

The long Lee-to-Paul completion opened the floodgates for the Huskers (4-1, 1-0 Big 12), who scored 27 unanswered points in the fourth quarter to rally for a 27-12 win over the Tigers (4-1, 0-1).

"I think it kind of sparked our offense because our defense was playing a great game the whole game," Paul said of his first TD catch. "It kind of sparked us up and as you could see after that, it led to a

couple more touchdowns."

Suh and junior cornerback Dejon Gomes set up subsequent scores with interceptions of Missouri quarterback Blaine Gabbert. Lee made the turnovers hurt, throwing TD passes of 13 yards to Paul and 8 yards to tight end Mike McNeill.

Nebraska finished off the impressive comeback on I-back Roy Helu Jr.'s 5-yard TD run with 56 seconds remaining.

And it all started with Lee's 56-yard scoring pass to Paul.

"We were just trying to get in a rhythm all night," Lee said. "That play just really kind of sparked us -- got us in a rhythm. There was a weight off our shoulders even though we were still behind at that point." **N**

—by Terry Douglass





PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

## SUH-NAMI STRIKES

Missouri's offensive line simply had no answer for Nebraska defensive tackle **NDAMUKONG SUH** during the Cornhuskers' 27-12 victory in Columbia, Mo.

Playing in front of an ESPN national TV audience, Suh showed he's perhaps deserving of the preseason All-America honors bestowed upon him. The 6-foot-4, 300-pound senior from Portland, Ore., finished with six tackles and also had a sack, forced a fumble, broke up a pass and recorded an interception.

"Suh played his you-know-what off," Nebraska coach **BO PELINI** said. "He played great, but you can add the other guys up front, too -- **BARRY TURNER**, **CAMERON MEREDITH**, **PIERRE ALLEN**, **JARED CRICK**, **BAKER STEINKUEHLER** -- those guys played hard, they played

well and you can say that about everybody who lined up on defense today."

Now, the question is whether or not Nebraska's defensive performance will earn the Huskers their coveted Blackshirt practice jerseys.

"I really don't know," Suh said. "It's really up to Coach Bo."

### LEE BOUNCES BACK

Just when it looked like Nebraska quarterback **ZAC LEE** was about to suffer his second consecutive poor showing on the road, the junior quarterback responded by throwing three fourth-quarter touchdown passes against Missouri to spark the Huskers' 27-point fourth-quarter rally.

With Lee just 9-of-27 passing for 79 yards through three quarters, Nebraska

offensive coordinator **SHAWN WATSON** admitted he briefly considered inserting backup quarterback **CODY GREEN** into the lineup. He reasoned it might be good to let Lee see the game from the perspective of the sideline.

"I thought about it for a half second and said, 'Nah, I'm going to leave this kid in there because I believe in him,' and he did an excellent job," said Watson, whose quarterback finished 14-of-33 passing for 158 yards and three TDs. "He's such a great competitor that he just kept fighting his way through it."



PHOTO BY DANIEL TURNER

### FAVORITE IN NORTH?

After beating two-time defending Big 12 Conference North champion Missouri on its home field, the question is: Is Nebraska now the favorite to win the division and advance to the league's Dec. 5 title game at Dallas Cowboys Stadium in Irving, Texas?

Not if you ask Huskers' head coach **BO PELINI**.

"No. I don't self-appoint that," Pelini said when asked about taking on the favorite tag in the North. "We have to earn what we get the rest of the season."

Still, Nebraska defensive tackle





PHOTO BY DANIEL TURNER

**HEALTHY HELU?** Prior to playing Missouri, rumors were rapidly spreading among Nebraska fans that the reason I-back **ROY HELU JR.** had missed practice earlier in the week was that he was suffering from flu-like symptoms.

"I'm the only one who had the flu," Pelini said. "Roy was fine."

Helu split time with backup I-back **REX BURKHEAD** and finished with 88 yards rushing on 18 carries. Nearly half of Helu's production came on a 41-yard late in the game to set up his own 5-yard TD run.

**NDAMUKONG SUH** said beating Missouri is a great way to start Big 12 play.

"It's one of those that means a little more just because it's the Big 12 North and we want to definitely dominate the Big 12 North," Suh said. "It's not the exact way we wanted to win this game, but we'll take it."

## SMILES FOR NILES

While **NILES PAUL** wound up being one of the stars of Nebraska's come-from-behind win at Missouri with career highs in receptions (six) and yards (102) to go with two TDs, things didn't start out so well for the junior receiver.

Paul did have four first-half receptions, but also dropped passes and fumbled a punt return. Paul was actually benched by receivers coach **TED GILMORE** to start the second half, but responded in a big way in the fourth quarter.

"It's obviously one of the my best feelings I've had in collegiate football," Paul said. "Our team pulled together and showed how strong we were."

## JUST ANOTHER 'W'

While Nebraska's victory over No. 24-ranked Missouri was the Huskers' first win over a ranked foe since 2006 at Texas A&M, coach **BO PELINI** downplayed the significance.

It was also Pelini's first-ever defeat of an opponent ranked by the Associated Press.

Pelini was also reluctant to label the win a turning point for the program in his second season as head coach.

"I don't get into all that," Pelini said. "This game is just part of the process, part of where we are. We're not going to handle this win any different than we do any other week. It's on to the next thing."

## QUICKLY



### WORTH NOTING

► Nebraska's comeback from a 12-0 deficit entering the fourth quarter tied the largest fourth-quarter comeback in school history, and was the largest ever on the road. Nebraska trailed Colorado 19-7 entering the fourth quarter in Lincoln in 1966, before rallying for a 21-19 victory.

► Despite not having played in a game this season, true freshman offensive lineman

**JEREMIAH SIRLES** was included on Nebraska's 70-man travel roster for the Missouri game.

► Nebraska game captains against the Tigers were nose tackle **NDAMUKONG SUH**, offensive guard **KEITH WILLIAMS**, tight end **MIKE MCNEILL** and safety **AUSTIN CASSIDY**.

► The Huskers beat Missouri in Columbia for the first time since 2001.





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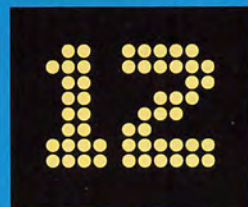
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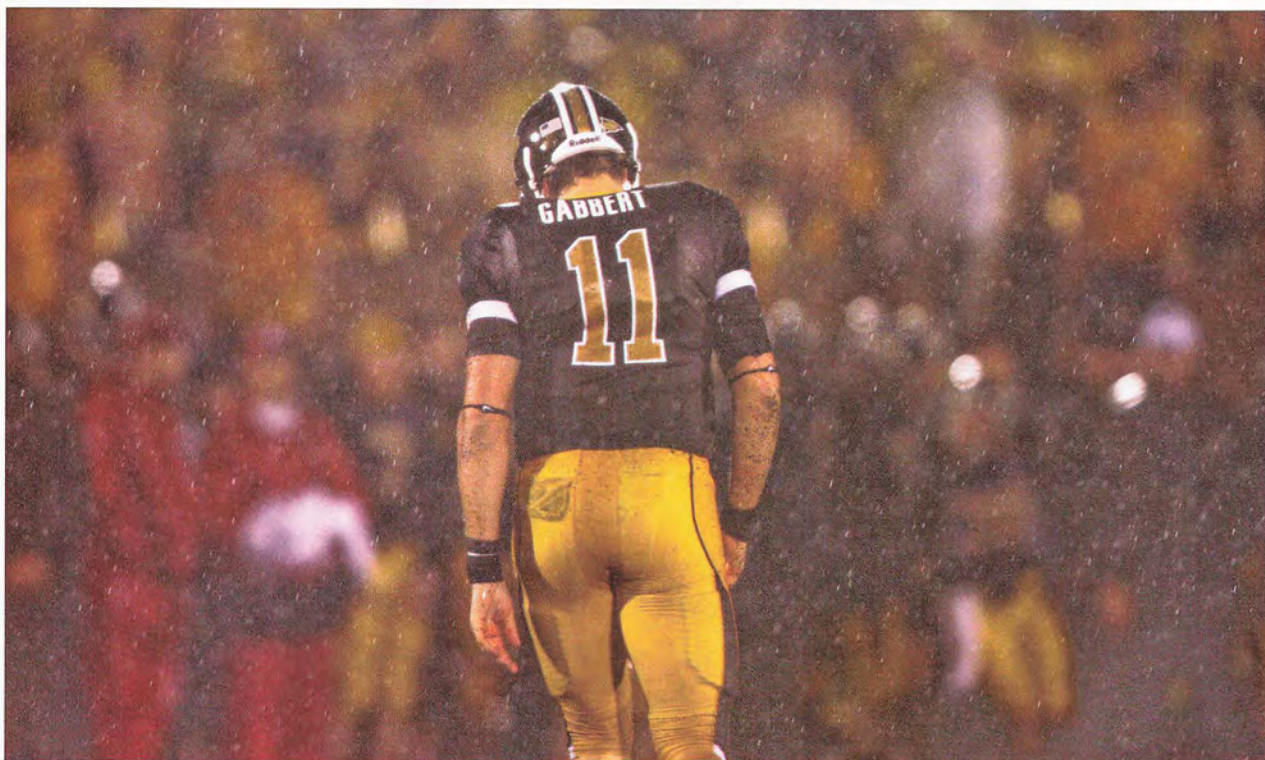
**NEBRASKA**



**MISSOURI**



# GamePhotos



PHOTOS BY AARON BABCOCK



**CLOCKWISE (from top):** Missouri quarterback **BLAINE GABBERT** limps off the field in Thursday's game. Gabbert originally committed to play at Nebraska before changing his pledge to Missouri. **WILL COMPTON** tries to escape a Tiger offensive lineman to make a tackle. **BO PELINI** looks at a replay on the stadium video board. **REX BURKHEAD** breaks through the Missouri defense.





PHOTOS BY ARON BABCOCK



**TOP:** Keith Williams celebrates and acknowledges Husker fans as he leaves the field following Saturday's win. **BOTTOM:** Jared Crick flies in for a sack on quarterback Blaine Gabbert.

## SNAP SHOT

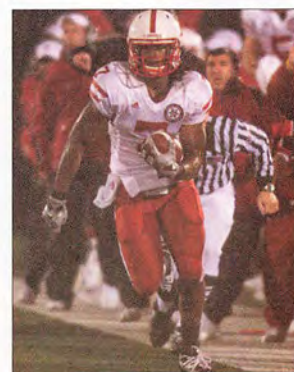
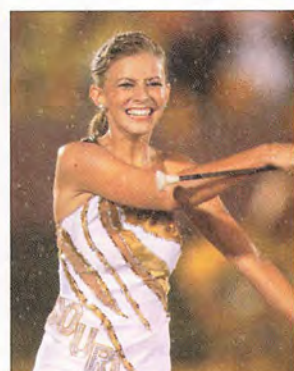


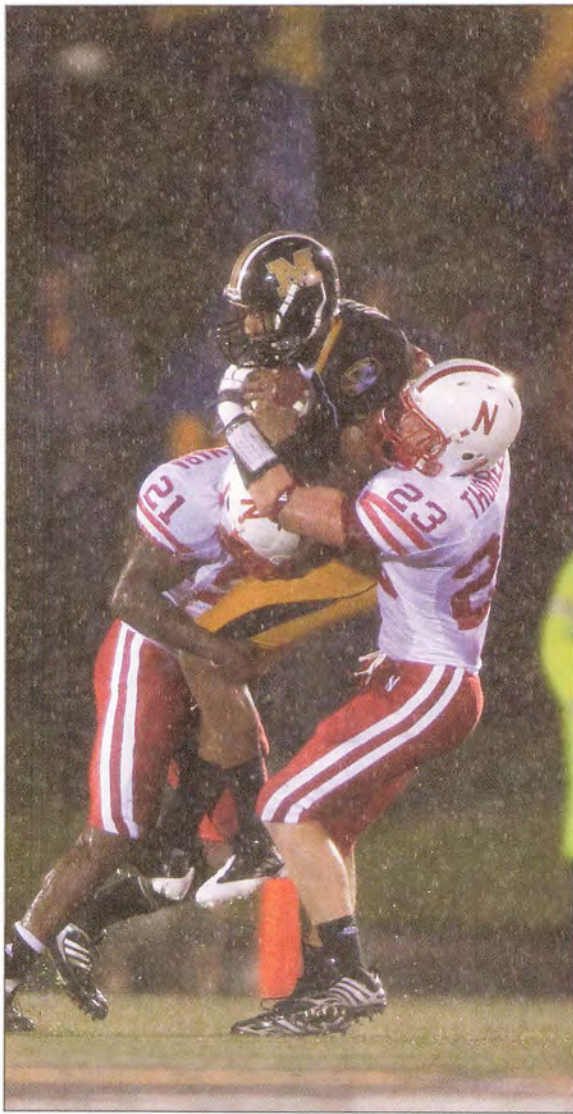
PHOTO BY DANIEL TURNER



PHOTO BY DANIEL TURNER



## FAN OF THE GAME



PHOTOS BY AARON BABCOCK





# REPORT CARD

## RUSHING:

Until late in the game, the Huskers were in the F range. They rushed for a net of 30 yards on 23 carries through the first three quarters. But at the end, when they needed to run time off the clock, they did – including a 41-yard run by **ROY HELU, JR.**

## PASSING:

Just like the running game, the passing game was salvaged in the fourth quarter, when **ZAC LEE** was five-of-six for 79 yards (doubling his total for the game) and three touchdowns. **NILES PAUL** had a big game, with six catches for 102 yards and two touchdowns.

## RUSHING DEFENSE:

Missouri could do little against the Huskers on the ground against **NDAMUKONG SUH** and company. The Tigers averaged 2.6 yards per carry. Enough said.

## PASSING DEFENSE:

Missouri quarterback **BLAINE GABBERT** went into the game without having thrown an interception in 131 attempts. Counting 13 passes last season and his first 33 passes in this game, he had thrown 177 in a row without an interception. Then the Cornhuskers picked off passes on back-to-back attempts. They also dropped four other potential interceptions. They also sacked Gabbert twice.

## KICKING/SPECIAL TEAMS:

Nebraska's special teams avoided an F because of **ALEX HENERY**, who punted well when the center snaps were good, and because Missouri's kick returns were contained. A bad snap cost the Huskers a safety, and problems catching punts was a serious concern, rain or not.

## FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

### NEBRASKA STARS

► Millard South quarterback **BRONSON MARSH** had a combined 265 yards of total offense and four touchdowns in the Patriots 42-28 win over Omaha Creighton Prep.

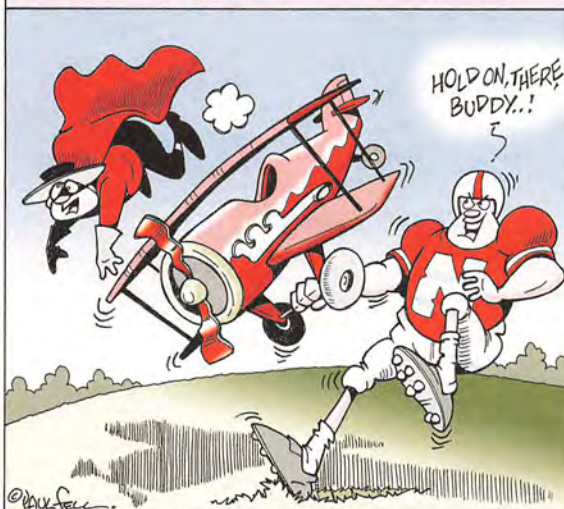
► Creighton Prep running back **NICK MIZAUR** had 22 carries for 172 yards and two touchdowns on Friday in a losing effort against Millard South.

► Burke junior quarterback **JIMMY FORSYTHE** threw for 196 yards and rushed for 150 in a 33-7 win over Omaha North on Thursday night. Forsythe connected with wide receiver **LAVANT MOORE** six times for a 173 yards.

► Omaha Skutt quarterback **CHRISTIAN DUDZIK** had 16 carries for 123 yards and one touchdown and an interception return for a touchdown in 20-3 win over Ralston.

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## QUICK PICKS



**Aaron Babcock**  
(27-11/6-2)



**Mike Babcock**  
(26-12/5-3)



**Sean Callahan**  
(25-13/5-3)



**John Talman**  
(26-12/6-2)



**Matt Davison**  
(25-13/4-4)

(Season/Last Week)	Aaron Babcock (27-11/6-2)	Mike Babcock (26-12/5-3)	Sean Callahan (25-13/5-3)	John Talman (26-12/6-2)	Matt Davison (25-13/4-4)
Texas Tech at Nebraska	NU 35-17	NU 31-20	NU 31-17	NU 38-20	NU 38-17
Oklahoma vs. Texas	UT 28-20	UT 35-27	UT 38-27	UT 31-24	UT 27-24
Kansas at Colorado	KU 24-13	KU 42-18	KU 45-27	KU 42-17	KU 34-24
Missouri at Oklahoma State	OSU 35-28	OSU 38-13	MU 44-40	OSU 42-34	OSU 35-21
USC at Notre Dame	USC 42-35	USC 28-10	USC 27-23	USC 28-17	USC 37-31
Virginia Tech at Georgia Tech	VT 25-17	VT 20-17	VT 38-23	VT 38-21	GT 24-21
Arkansas at Florida	UF 42-28	UF 42-14	UF 52-30	UF 34-14	UF 44-17
Iowa at Wisconsin	UW 28-21	UW 28-23	UI 27-21	UW 30-24	UI 11-9



# GameStats

## SUMMARY

### SCORING

Oct. 8, 2009  
Faurot Field • Columbia, Mo.  
Attendance: 65,826

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Tot
Nebraska	0	0	0	27	27
Missouri	0	9	3	0	12

#### Second Quarter

	NU	MU
MU Safety 14:01	0	2
MU Gabbert 1-yard Run (Ressel Kick) 00:00 Drive: 7 plays 44 yds 0:48	0	9

#### Third Quarter

	NU	MU
MU Ressel 33-yard Field Goal 01:26 Drive: 7 plays 19 yds 2:16	0	12

#### Fourth Quarter

	NU	MU
NU Paul Pass from Lee 56-yards (Henery Kick) 13:56 Drive: 6 plays 69 yds 2:29	7	12
NU Paul Pass from Lee 13-yards (Gilleylen Pass Fail) 12:59 Drive: 2 plays 18 yds 0:45	13	12
NU McNeill Pass from Lee 8-yards (Henery Kick) 10:34 Drive: 3 plays 10 yds 0:58	20	12
NU Helu Jr. 5-yard Run (Henery Kick) 00:56 Drive: 8 plays 68 yds 4:28	27	12

## TEAM STATS

	NU	MU
<b>Total First Downs</b>	14	15
Rushing	6	4
Passing	6	7
Penalty	2	4
<b>Rushing Attempts</b>	33	35
<b>Yards Gained Rushing</b>	144	118
<b>Yards Lost Rushing</b>	39	27
<b>Net Yards Rushing</b>	105	91
<b>Net Yards Passing</b>	158	134
Passes Attempted	33	43
Passes Completed	14	17
Had Intercepted	0	2
Percent Completion	42.4%	39.5%
Yards per Attempt	4.8	3.1
Yards per Completion	11.3	7.9
<b>Total Offensive Plays</b>	66	78
<b>Total Net Yards</b>	263	225
Avg. Gain Per Play	4.0	2.9
<b>Fumbles: No-Lost</b>	5-2	2-1
<b>Penalties: No-Yards</b>	12-108	8-100
<b>Punts: No-Yards</b>	8-315	8-357
Avg. Per Punt	39.4	44.6
Avg. Net Punt	31.5	45.2
<b>Punt Returns: No-Yards</b>	4--5	4-63
<b>Kickoff Returns: No-Yards</b>	1-2	5-82
<b>Interception Returns: No-Yards</b>	2-40	0-0
<b>Fumble Returns: No-Yards</b>	0-0	0-0
<b>Miscellaneous Yards</b>	0	0
<b>Possession Time</b>	29:32	30:28
<b>Third-Down Conversions</b>	8-17	5-18
Percentage	47.1%	27.8%
<b>Fourth-Down Conversions</b>	0-1	1-2
Percentage	0.0%	50.0%
<b>Sacks By: No-Yards</b>	2-15	1-7

## INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

### NEBRASKA

Rushing	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
Helu Jr.	18	96	8	88	4.9	1	41
Burkhead	5	34	0	34	6.8	0	14
Lee	8	14	7	7	0.9	0	5
TEAM	2	0	24	-24	-12.0	0	0
Total	33	144	39	105	3.2	1	41

Passing	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Lee	33	14	42.4	0	158	3	56

Receiving	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Paul	6	102	2	56
Holt	2	26	0	18
Gilleylen	3	14	0	13
McNeill	1	8	1	8
Burkhead	1	4	0	4
Reed	1	4	0	4
Total	14	158	3	56

Punt Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Burkhead	1	0	0	0
Paul	2	-1	0	0
May	1	-4	0	0
Total	4	-5	0	0

Kick Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Glassman	1	2	0	2

Punting	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+	In 20
Henery	8	39.4	55	0	1	0	2	2

Field Goals	Made	Att	Lg	Blkd
Total	0	0	0	0

Defense	Tac	Ass	Tot	TFL	Sac	PD	FF	FR
Amukamara	2	7	9	0-0	0-0	2	0	0
Crick	2	5	7	1-9	1-9	0	0	1
Asante	1	5	6	0-0	0-0	2	0	0
Compton	2	4	6	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Suh	5	1	6	1-6	1-6	1	1	0
Allen	3	2	5	1-5	0-0	0	0	0
Gomes	3	2	5	1-2	0-0	1	0	0
O'Hanlon	3	2	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
May	1	3	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Dillard	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Turner	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Dennard	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Hagg	1	1	2	1-2	0-0	0	0	0
Hays	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Martin	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Meredith	0	2	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Smith	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Thorell	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Washington	2	0	2	1-4	0-0	0	0	0
Grove	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Hill	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Steinkuler	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0

Interception Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Gomes	1	40	0	40
Suh	1	0	0	0
Total	2	40	0	40

### MISSOURI

Rushing	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
Washington	20	80	0	80	4.0	0	23
Moore	6	18	9	9	1.5	0	7
Gabbert	9	20	18	2	0.2	1	8
Total	35	118	27	91	2.6	1	23

Passing	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Gabbert	43	17	39.5	2	134	0	38

Receiving	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Perry	4	68	0	38
Alexander	6	43	0	11
Jackson	2	11	0	6
Washington	3	10	0	9
Moore	1	4	0	4
Kemp	1	-2	0	0
Total	17	134	0	38

Punt Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Gettis	4	63	0	27

Kick Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Simmons	4	73	0	21
Jackson	1	9	0	9
Total	5	82	0	21

Punting	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+	In 20
Harry	8	44.6	57	0	0	2	1	4

Field Goals	Made	Att	Lg	Blkd
Ressel	1	2	33	0

Defense	Tac	Ass	Tot	TFL	Sac	PD	FF	FR
Gettis	4	1	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Lambert	4	1	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Weatherspoon	4	1	5	1-2	0-0	0	0	0
Gachkar	3	1	4	1-7	1-7	0	1	2
Ricks	2	2	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Simmons	4	0	4	1-3	0-0	1	0	0
Smith	3	1	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Coulter	2	1	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Hobson	3	0	3	1-11	0-0	0	0	0
Rutland	3	0	3	1-2	0-0	1	0	0
Baston	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Ebner	2	0	2	1-3	0-0	0	0	0
Harrison	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Smith	0	2	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Barnes	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Hoch	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Steeple	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0

Interception Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Total	0	0	0	0

Sat., Sept. 5	Florida Atlantic	Memorial Stadium	W, 49-3
Sat., Sept. 12	Arkansas State	Memorial Stadium	W, 38-9
Sat., Sept. 19	Virginia Tech	Blacksburg, Va.	L, 15-16
Sat., Sept. 26	La-Lafayette	Memorial Stadium	W, 55-0
Thur., Oct. 8	Missouri	Columbia, Mo.	W, 27-12
Sat., Oct. 17	Texas Tech	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat., Oct. 24	Iowa State	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat., Oct. 31	Baylor	Waco, Texas	TBA
Sat., Nov. 7	Oklahoma	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat., Nov. 14	Kansas	Lawrence, Kan.	TBA
Sat., Nov. 21	Kansas State	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Fri., Nov. 27	Colorado	Boulder, Colo.	2:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 5	Big 12 Championship	Arlington, Texas	7 p.m. (ABC)



# Batch brings power, speed, delivers blows to defenders

BY STEVEN M. SIPPLE

**EARLIER THIS SEASON** against Houston, Texas Tech running back Baron Batch twice slammed into defenders with such force that their helmets popped off as they tried to tackle him.

The 5-foot-11, 200-pound Batch evidently packs some power with his speed -- just ask Nebraska.

In last season's 37-31 overtime win against the Huskers in Lubbock, Texas, Batch rushed 10 times for 97 yards and added three receptions for 53. He finished the season with a team-high 742 yards rushing, adding 442 yards on 43 receptions as the Red Raiders finished 11-2 and 7-1 in the Big 12.

Batch's toughness impresses teammates. But with Batch experiencing a drop-off in production this season compared to last, Texas Tech coaches want to see him be consistently decisive with his reads and cuts.

"Baron spent a certain amount of time worrying about splitting atoms rather than doing what running backs do, which is hit the hole and run hard," Red Raiders 10th-year head coach Mike Leach told the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal recently. "He is really a driven guy, a real committed guy, and I think a combination of trying to be too perfect and worrying about making mistakes and a whole bunch of little collateral issues . . . He doesn't need to worry about all that.

"He had a couple plays (Sept. 26 in a 29-28 loss to Houston) where he didn't necessarily go to the right place, but just did it with such a tempo and intensity that it



took care of itself."

The junior from Midland, Texas, gashed Houston for 114 yards on 19 carries before responding with an eight-carry, 47-yard outing Oct. 4 in a 48-28 home win against New Mexico. Heading into an Oct. 10 home game against Kansas State, Batch this season had rushed 44 times for 226 yards and four touchdowns while catching 12 passes for 121 yards.

## OFFENSIVE BALANCE

Leach's offense has never produced a 1,000-yard rusher at Tech, which doesn't concern the coach in the least. "There's nothing sacred about rushing," he said this summer. "If you get 500 yards rushing, and I get 1,000 yards receiving, I'm still 500 yards ahead."

The combination of rushing and receiving is what interests him the most, and Batch continues to be productive in both areas.

## HE'S BACK

Tech standout offensive guard Brandon Carter was reinstated to the team Oct. 4 after he was suspended indefinitely in the hours after the Houston game. He watched the Red Raiders' Oct. 3 home game against New Mexico from the stands and returned to practice the following Sunday.

### TEXAS TECH QUICK FACTS

**Head coach:** Mike Leach, 10th year, 79-41 overall, 42-31 at Texas Tech, 19th season in Division I-A, 79-41

**Enrollment:** 30,049

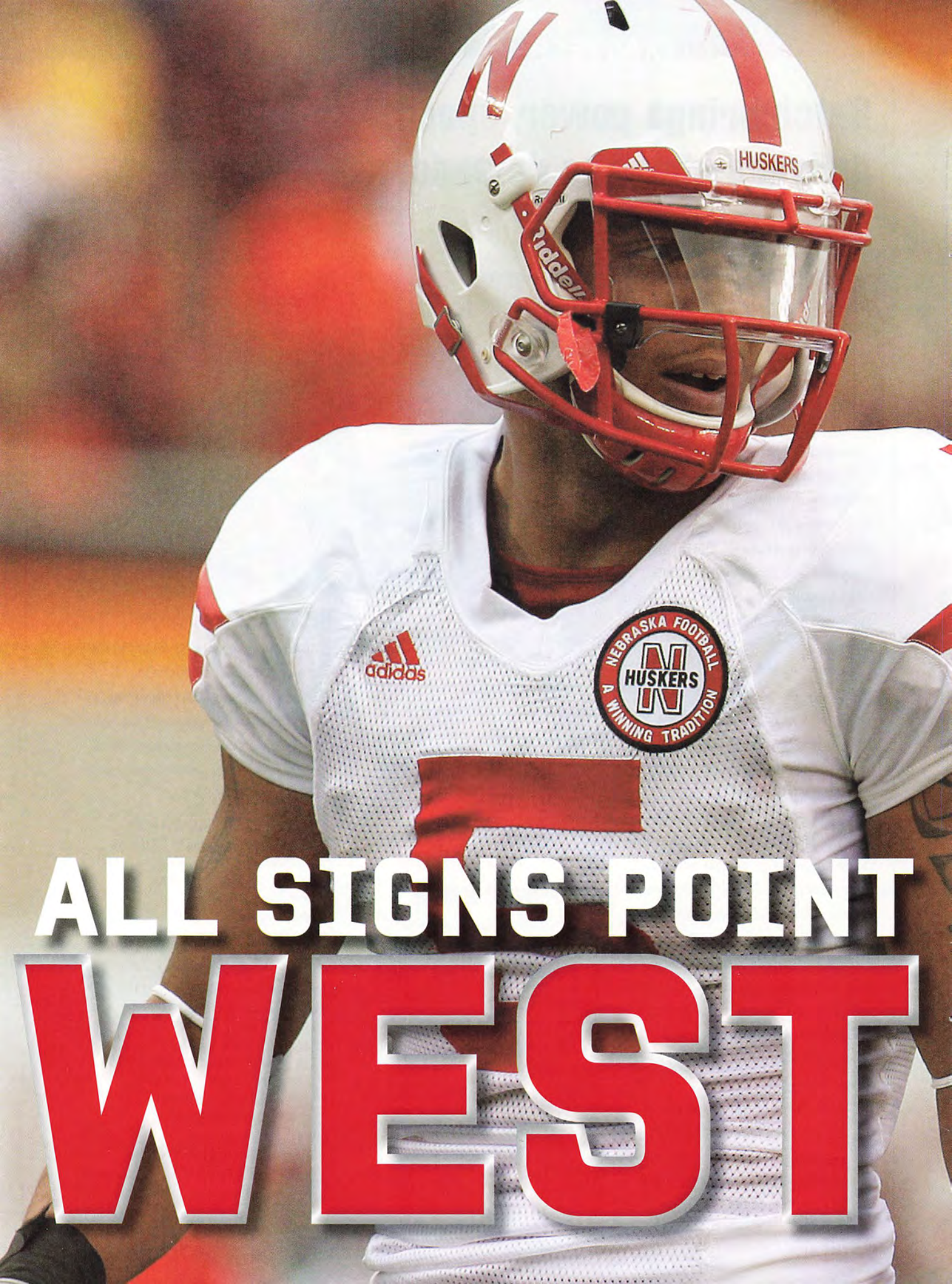
**Colors:** Black and red

**2009 record:** 11-2 (7-1 Big 12)

### 2009 SCHEDULE

9/5	vs. North Dakota, W, 38-13
9/12	vs. Rice, W, 55-10
9/19	at Texas, L, 34-24
9/26	at Houston, L, 29-28
10/3	vs. New Mexico, W, 48-28
10/10	vs. Kansas State, 6:00 p.m.
10/17	at Nebraska, 2:30 p.m.
10/24	vs. Texas A&M Lubbock,
10/31	vs. Kansas
11/14	at Oklahoma State
11/21	vs. Oklahoma
11/28	vs. Baylor





ALL SIGNS POINT  
**WEST**





# JUNIOR CORNER KNOWS THE DIRECTION HE'S HEADED

BY STEVEN M. SIPPLE

**E**xcuse Anthony West if he doesn't have a lot of spare time on his hands these days.

He's busy preparing for his future.

On a couple of occasions recently, West hustled out of Nebraska's late-afternoon practice to meet with a tutor. In addition to managing the demands of major college football, the Husker junior cornerback is concentrating hard on school these days.

In fact, he's on track to graduate in May with a bachelor's degree in sociology. He then plans to begin master's degree classes as well as an internship "working with troubled kids and troubled families," he said.





"Ultimately, I want to get into something along the lines of probation work -- but mostly dealing with counseling and working with younger and kind of troubled kids," he added.

West, a San Diego native, has an advantage over many people his age in that he knows exactly what he wants to do with his life after college.

"Basically, it just comes from what I saw growing up," he said. "I saw a lot of kids make some bad choices, and luckily I was fortunate enough to get out of that whole scene. Growing up in my neighborhood, there were a lot of kids who didn't really have the guidance or direction they needed. A lot of the bad choices they made have stuck with them until now.

"I've always thought that if they had somebody who could've helped them, then maybe things could've turned out a little bit better."

Things have gone well for West at Nebraska both off the field and on it. In addition to being on track to graduate in May, he has been in the starting lineup since the start of last season.

West said he has remained on the right path with the help of his parents, Robert and Marguerite West, as well as his head football coach at Point Loma High School in San Diego, Mike Hastings.

West grew up in what he describes as a rough neighborhood in the southeastern part of San Diego, around the Skyline district. Historically, there has been a lot of gang activity and drugs in that area, which also typically has a disproportionate number of

homicides compared to the rest of the city.

"But I was able to go out of my neighborhood and play in high school in a different neighborhood, and kind of have a different upbringing -- I kind of got away from the troubles that went on in my neighborhood, and that helped me out a lot," said West, referring to Point Loma High School, located about 20 minutes from his home. "The troubles in my neighborhood, as I got older, kind of toned down. It got to be where it wasn't as bad. That kind of helped out, too.

"But a lot of kids that I grew up with got into the gang life. It really affected them as far as school goes. Being able to get away from that in high school was really important, just because that's a real crucial time in life, just trying to figure out what you want to do."

West starred on the football field for Point Loma, and attracted recruiting interest from UCLA, Texas Tech, Utah and San Diego State, among others.

Perhaps the National Football League will be an option for West.

"Of course, football is always something you want to do, but you always have to have that back-up plan -- have something to fall back on," he said. "It's something my parents really stressed. A lot of coaches and teachers really stressed that, too."

His father, Robert West, played wide receiver in the NFL in the early 1970s with the Kansas City Chiefs and San Francisco 49ers before suffering a major knee injury. Robert West first attended a junior college and then San Diego State for two years, jumping to



the NFL before his senior year.

"Basically, it was more of a financial decision because of his background with his mom," Anthony West said. "He didn't really grow up with much. He saw going to the NFL as a way to help out his family financially.

"He's talked to me about wishing he would've stayed in school and got that degree," Anthony added. "It's something he's still going to school for. It's something he really harped on with me."

Anthony West not only took his father's advice to heart, he apparently also inherited his father's football abilities. As a redshirted freshman in 2007, Anthony saw action in Nebraska's nickel and dime packages while also contributing on special teams. In 2008, he held down the starting right cornerback job opposite then-senior Armando Murillo, finishing the season

with 29 tackles while tying Murillo for the team lead with nine pass breakups. On balance, West felt good about his performance.

However, "I always feel like there's still more I can do," he said. "But as far as going in and playing under a new staff, in a new system, I felt like it went pretty well. This year, though, my mindset is totally different just because I know what's expected from me and I know a lot of the different things I can work on. My expectations are a lot higher this season than they were last season."

West feels good about the manner in which his football career at Nebraska has unfolded. However, "There's a lot of competition in the secondary. Guys are really competing," he said. "It kind of puts you in the mindset that you can't afford to slack off because somebody can take your

position really quick."

West's experiences at Nebraska should help him as he moves into the "real world." For instance, he matured as a person in 2007, making his way as a young player living far from home while playing on a team that struggled to a 5-7 final record -- ultimately leading to the firing of head coach Bill Callahan.

"That was real hard," West said. "Obviously, everyone knows that the program had a lot of ups and downs -- more along the lines of the downside. You can't really compare it to high school.

"We won a lot in high school. Then coming here and seeing the troubles we had, and seeing the whole unity of the team . . . It really wasn't there. I mean, that part totally changed after they got the new coaching staff in here. It's like night and day, the difference." **N**



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**JERRY TAGGE**

*All-American Quarterback,  
1970-71*



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## Huskers earn high marks from visitors

BY RICK SHAW

**E**ight official visitors were among those on hand for Nebraska's 55-0 win against Louisiana-Lafayette. Although the weekend did not produce any immediate commitments, the atmosphere surrounding the Huskers' 300th consecutive sellout seemed to strike a chord with the recruits.

Corsicana, Texas, Navarro Junior College tight end **CHASE HARPER** (6-foot-6, 248 pounds) even pondered forgoing the remainder of his visits to commit to the Huskers.

"I didn't commit to the coaches, but I'm leaning that way right now," Harper said. "I'm thinking I might be able to announce something (soon). I'm going to go home and talk to my parents. I'm sure they'll be behind me whatever I decide to do."

Harper, rated the No. 26 junior college prospect in the country (4 stars) by Rivals, claims offers from Baylor, Iowa State, Kansas State, Miami (Fla.), and Missouri in addition to the Huskers. He pointed to his strong relationship with Nebraska assistant coach **RON BROWN** as a reason Nebraska leads.

"I score the trip a 9 (out of 10)," Harper said. "The people were all amazing, from the players and coaches to the fans. I have a real great relationship with Coach Brown. He's a great coach, but he's also a great person."

### OSU COMMIT VISITS



Defensive lineman **CHASE ROME** of Columbia, Mo., Rock Bridge also made the trek to Lincoln for the game. Though he's been committed to Oklahoma State since April, he admitted that his experience at Nebraska has him reassessing his college plans.

"I'm trying to figure out where I stand now," Rome said. "Overall, I'd give the trip to Nebraska a 7 or 8. It was a lot of fun. I like the fan support there. Nebraska has the best fans in college football. I also have a great relationship with my lead recruiter, coach 'J.P.' (**JOHN PAPUCHIS**). My relationship with him is unique to any of the others I have with the other schools."

Rated among the top 250 recruits in

the country (4 stars) by Rivals, Rome also has offers from Oklahoma State, Florida, Missouri, Tennessee, Michigan, Oklahoma and others. He said he'd likely take another visit or two before solidifying a final college decision by early November.

### SASSER TO WAIT



Talented receiver **BUD SASSER** (6-3, 200) out of Denton, Texas, Ryan said he couldn't find much not to like about the Nebraska program. Just the same, he said he'd likely hold off making a final decision until he could take another visit or two.

"I really liked it a lot," Sasser said. "There were so many people there. The whole stands were filled, and they all love the Nebraska football team. When



**DALVIN GLASS**



we came out during the (Tunnel Walk), the fans there were already clapping and stuff. It was an 8. I liked everything, except for maybe the cold breeze.”

Rated a 3-star prospect by Rivals, Sasser said he hoped to take a trip to Kansas and maybe Missouri before pulling the trigger on a college commitment.

## SWIGERT A FAN OF NEBRASKANS



Another receiver on hand for the Husker's win over the Rajin' Cajuns was Louisville, Ohio, product **BOBBY SWIGERT**. The 6-1, 175-pound athlete was accompanied by his mother, father and uncle and admitted that all were thoroughly impressed with the Big Red experience.

“I really like the people at Nebraska,” Swigert said. “The best part of all of it is that Nebraska football is like my high school - everybody in the community lives and dies for it. That's what I want in a college experience and the biggest difference I see with some of the other programs.”

Swigert said he planned to take visits to Boston College, Michigan and Stanford before formalizing his college decision. He admitted, however, that the Huskers were going to be a tough act to top.

“I'd rate it a 9 or a 10,” Swigert said. “There is nothing I didn't like. It was all great.”

### NEBRASKA'S SCHEDULE VISIT LIST

NAME	POS.	HT	WT	DATE	COMMIT
Jay Guy	DT	6-1	300	11/7	California
Austin Hill	WR	6-3	192	11/7	
Joshua Mitchell	DB	5-11	165	11/7	
Harold Mobley	ATH	6-4	225	11/7	
Tyler Slavin	WR	6-2	182	11/7	
Curtis Carter	ATH	5-10	161	10/17	Nebraska
Ciante Evans	DB	5-11	170	9/25	
Chase Harper	TE	6-6	248	9/26	
Chase Rome	DE	6-3	290	9/26	Oklahoma St.
Bud Sasser	WR	6-3	200	9/26	
Bobby Swigert	WR	6-1	175	9/26	
Colin Tanigawa	OL	6-3	286	9/26	Nebraska
Damon Williams	DT	6-4	300	9/26	
Harvey Jackson	DB	6-2	185	9/5	
Tejay Johnson	ATH	6-2	190	9/5	Nebraska
Mike Moudy	OL	6-7	291	9/5	
Donovan Vestal	DE	6-5	240	9/5	



## IN STATE SPOTLIGHT

BY SEAN CALLAHAN

Omaha Millard North's **COLE FISHER** is one of the top 2011 prospects in the state of Nebraska. The 6-foot-3, 185-pound Fisher is the younger brother of current Husker starting linebacker **SEAN FISHER**.

**CALLAHAN:** How much do you get asked about your brother?

**FISHER:** It's a lot actually. I have people that start talking to me, thinking they're talking to him because everyone thinks we look so much alike. I definitely get asked about him plenty.

**CALLAHAN:** How often do you guys get confused?

**FISHER:** Some of our friends and my grandparents will think that I'm Sean and ask if I've lost weight. It's kind of funny when that happens.

**CALLAHAN:** Having a dad who played for Nebraska and a brother currently on the team, what's your favorite Husker memory?

**FISHER:** The first game I went to was pretty cool. We were in the south end of the stadium and I'm pretty sure we were playing Oklahoma State. I remember the first touchdown and letting all the balloons go. I thought that was sweet. At that age, I thought that was one of the coolest things I've seen so far.

**CALLAHAN:** What's the best trip or vacation you've ever taken?

**FISHER:** Cancun. We've gone there a couple of times. The second time was for my grandparent's 50th anniversary with my entire family. We had a good time down there. It was really nice. The resort was really nice. It was set up where we paid for everything all in advance, so everything was free.

**CALLAHAN:** What's a show you can't miss on TV?

**FISHER:** I love the show "House" on Fox. I watch that every Monday.

**CALLAHAN:** Favorite all-time movie?

**FISHER:** My favorite movie of all-time is definitely between "Remember the Titans" and "Friday Night Lights."

**CALLAHAN:** Playing for Coach (Fred) Petito at Millard North, he's obviously a local coaching legend. Give me your best Petito story or something funny about him?

**FISHER:** He actually has a bunch of little sayings for certain circumstances for people being late or people being sick. There's this one where he'll say: "Why are you sick? I was sick one time, and I didn't like it, so I don't get sick anymore." He just says stuff like that all the time, and it kind of eases things up a little bit.



# Recruiting Notebook

## Huskers have need for speed

by Sean Stevens

Speed kills, and it's widely been accepted that, for the most part, much of the speed in high school football is found in Florida. In the 1990s, Nebraska dipped into the Sunshine State for players such as **TOMMIE FRAZIER**, **TYRONE WILLIAMS** and **SHEVIN WIGGINS**.

The 2010 recruiting class is also focusing on Florida, specifically two wide receivers from the Miami area on hand to watch the Huskers' game against Louisiana-Lafayette. Both prospects came away with a strong impression of the NU program.

**JOSHUA REESE** (6-1, 185, 4 stars) of Miami Central enjoyed his visit to Lincoln.

"Besides the game, which was incredible, the highlight was the facilities – everything was big, new and revolved around football. Everything you need is right there," he said.

The show **ZAC LEE** and the Husker receivers put on helped dispel some misconceptions for Reese.

"They threw the ball a lot more than I was expecting them to. I had heard that they mostly ran the ball," he said. "I was watching the wideouts during the game and seeing how they were doing. I can definitely see myself playing in their offense."

Reese is rated by Rivals.com as the No.

130 player at all positions nationally and also has offers from Florida, Florida State, Tennessee and South Carolina, among others. As a junior he caught 40 passes for nearly 800 yards and 10 touchdowns.

The other south Florida wideout in town was **WILLIS WRIGHT** (6-2, 205, 3 stars) of Miami Springs, who lists Auburn, Miami, Tennessee and West Virginia among his suitors. His comments on the trip were similar to those of Reese.

"To be honest, I liked everything," Wright said. "It was great. I had fun. The people were nice, the coaches were nice; it was just good people to be around. It was fun up there."

Wright rated his trip a 10 on a 1-to-10 scale and was impressed with the show that the team put on, but his time talking with NU head coach Bo Pelini was something that really stood out for him.

"Yeah, we had a great talk," Wright said. "We had a good time talking. It was about the team and how good the people are up there and how he'd like to get me up there."

In a recent match-up between Central and Miami Springs, Wright had five catches for 142 yards and three touchdowns, but Reese had the last laugh as Central won 70-24. **N**

## SIDELINES



### TANIGAWA RATES HIS VISIT TO LINCOLN A "10"

Los Angeles Loyola offensive lineman **COLIN TANIGAWA** (6-3, 286) said his trip to Lincoln went better than he ever expected. He plans to visit both Arizona State and Washington yet this month before making a decision "sometime before Halloween".

"(Coach **BO PELINI**) talked to me about his philosophy on things and how he runs the team," Tanigawa said. "He was a real straight-shooter, which I liked. He told us how he runs a disciplined program, and I liked that a lot, too. I didn't really know what to think heading into it, but it was a lot better than I was expecting. I knew the fans would be crazy. It was really cool. I would say it was a 10."

Tanigawa, rated the No. 33 offensive guard prospect in the nation (3 stars) by Rivals.com, is one of the top line prospects still left on the board for the Huskers.

## 2010 Nebraska Commitment List (8)

Name (Rivals.com ranking)	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown (School)
Walker Ashburn ★★	DE	6-3	245	River Ridge, La. (John Curtis)
Ciante Evans ★★	CB	5-11	170	Arlington, Texas (Juan Seguin)
Tyler Evans ★	ATH	6-2	180	Waverly, Neb. (Waverly)
Tyler Gabbert ★★	QB	6-0	190	Ballwin, Mo. (Parkway West)
Harvey Jackson ★★	DB	6-2	185	Missouri City, Texas (Hightower)
Mike Moudy ★★	OL	6-7	291	Castle Rock, Colo. (Douglas County)
Andrew Rodriguez ★★	OT	6-6	300	Aurora, Neb. (Aurora)
Donovan Vestal ★★	DE	6-5	240	Arlington, Texas (Bowie)





## DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS

BY JOHN TALMAN  
RECRUITING PUBLISHER,  
HUSKERSILLUSTRATED.COM

# Huskers gaining momentum in recruiting

**IT'S A WORD USED** a lot in recruiting, and if you look at past Nebraska recruiting classes under Bo Pelini, it's pretty common around Lincoln.

You do get the feeling that momentum is starting to pick up in recruiting for the Huskers, and it could be the quiet before the storm.

It seems to be the trend at Nebraska since the class of 2008.

Look at last year's recruiting class, for example.

December saw the effects of positive recruiting momentum and an on-the-field surge.

The Huskers had just finished the season with three straight wins over conference opponents. They were heading to a bowl game in Pelini's first season and staring a nine-win campaign in the face.

In December, just days after a victory over the Buffaloes, commitments started rolling in. Top prospects such as junior college transfers Brandon Kinnie and Dejon Gomes pulled the trigger. California defensive backs Dijon Washington and Lazarri Middleton were joined by Texas cornerback Andrew Green that same month. Things really finished with a bang as 4-stars Rex Burkhead and Jason Ankrah finished up the month with their pledges.

It's interesting to note that the latest any of the visitors actually took their officials to Nebraska was Nov. 28 (Gomes). The rest visited either earlier in November or in September or October. That's a lot of time between visiting campus and pulling

the trigger. It also speaks to the level of competition that Nebraska was facing and defeated to gain the commitments.

Pelini's first recruiting class was rushed as he came in with just a month or two to finish the class. Regardless, when momentum started rolling close to signing day, the staff delivered with prospects that we're seeing on the field already this season in significant roles.

So what does that have to do with 2010?

Well, this year is a little different.

The Huskers don't have a full 25 spots available for this class. Even with attrition and roster changes, it looks as if 20 would be a stretch when you do the math. They also don't have eight home games as they did in 2008. This year, they have only seven.

While there are differences, you also feel that same momentum starting to creep up.

The biggest visit weekend of the year was this the one of the Louisiana-Lafayette game, and fans were shocked when none of the prospects immediately pulled the trigger. With the pageantry and electricity of the 300th sellout, many figured at least one would jump on board.

I wouldn't be shocked, though, if we start seeing that change over the next few weeks.

Top defensive line target Chase Rome wants a decision out of the way in 30 days. While he's still committed to Oklahoma State, this was his second visit to Nebraska. Tight end Chase Harper is

leaning towards pulling the trigger, but the junior college prospect wanted to have a conversation with his parents first.

The Huskers are now in a very solid position with several of the wide receivers who were on campus, specifically rising Texas target Bud Sasser and Ohio speedster Bobby Swigert. The Huskers are very much in the race for surprise visitors, Miami receivers Joshua Reese and Willis Wright.

Not to mention, pay close attention to the weekends ahead. The Texas Tech contest is already setting up big with talented visitors. The Oklahoma weekend could top the Louisiana-Lafayette weekend in terms of quantity if things keep progressing as they are right now.

So yes, eight commits is where things stand today.

But once-a-week calls are allowed by assistants to each prospect and college coaches are heading out on the road to do more evaluations. The visit weekends are loading up, and we're seeing new areas where Nebraska is making its presence felt. Miami is a good example of new groundwork being laid.

While the class isn't miles away from being finished, there is still plenty of work to be done. All signs are pointing to the next few months being exciting ones to keep close tabs on the recruiting process.

Conference play won't be the only thing exciting to watch in the coming weeks. Late recruiting momentum, as the last few years have shown us, may once again be the talk going into the winter. **N**



# Volleyball

BROOKE DELANO

BY BOB HAMAR

## Banwarth transforms into elite passer

**J**ohn Cook wasn't the only one who saw something special from junior libero Kayla Banwarth. His wife, Wendy, also saw it early this season.

"I was talking to my wife, and she said, 'Man, I think Kayla is the best libero I've ever seen,'" Cook said. "Kayla is just at a really high level – her composure and confidence. I think she's gone to another level. With that comes responsibility that she has to be a leader out there, and I see that happening."

It wasn't always easy for the junior from Dubuque, Iowa. It was a struggle early in her career just passing the ball, but Cook said that's normal for a freshman. Tara Mueller, who was a freshman the same year as Banwarth, had the same problem.

"Kayla and Tara were horrible passers," Cook said. "We were thinking these guys were never going to be able to pass. It's just something that takes a while to develop. It is, in my opinion, the most difficult skill."

Of course part of the problem was that Banwarth and Mueller were trying to pass serves from players such as Jordan Larson and Rachel Holloway in practice. It was a frustrating



experience for Banwarth.

"From high school to college is a huge step," she said. "I think this team especially has very, very good servers. Naturally, your first couple weeks, your first couple months, as a college player, passing is going to be difficult. It's just something I buckled down and worked on every day. Now I can say that I pride myself on passing."

That's the most important part of the job for Banwarth, and it's something she has worked hard at to improve.

"The libero should be the best passer and should be the best defender," Banwarth said. "That's a goal for me, realistically, because I'm not there yet. Knowing that that's where a libero needs to be for their team gives me motivation to work hard."

Actually, Banwarth will never be there. She said she'll continue to strive to be the best she can be, but she will never be totally satisfied with her play.

"I don't think it will ever be to that point because that would be perfection," Banwarth said. "I'm by no means perfect, and I don't think I ever will be. Nobody will be. It's just constantly something to work toward."

The other part of the equation for a libero is leadership. That's something Banwarth has been working hard to improve.

"I've been personally working on stepping into a leadership role," Banwarth said. "Emotionally I want to step up for my team and be there for everybody."

"It's definitely outside my comfort zone because I'm naturally a shy, quiet person."

Cook has seen all kinds of improvement from Banwarth. She's not the same player who was overwhelmed in a 3-0 loss to the University of California in the 2007 regional finals.

"Physically she's gotten faster and quicker," Cook said. "I think the other

big thing is the confidence. She just has a presence out there now. I remember in our regional against Cal she crawled in a hole. Now I look at her, she's controlling the court. That's what you want in a great libero."

Cook knows what a great libero can do. He has seen players such as Washington's Candace Lee dominate the floor in the Huskies' 3-0 win over the Huskers in the 2006 NCAA championship match.

"We've seen a lot of liberos do that to us," Cook said. "Now we have a libero that's controlling the court. I think Kayla was good last year, but now it's that presence and leadership she has that just spreads amongst our team."

## SORT OF LIKE 2003

Cook said he couldn't get frustrated with his team's play after the Huskers lost back-to-back matches to Texas A&M and Texas in late September. He said this year's team reminded him of the 2003 squad that went 28-5 overall and 17-3 in the Big 12.

"That's the problem. We're practicing much better than we're playing in some of these matches," Cook said. "That's what's frustrating for them. They see in practice how hard we're training and how well we're doing, but again there's some anxiety that's creeping in there at the big points."

Cook said it's the opposite the 2007 team that wasn't a good practice team but played well in matches -- at least until late in the season in that regional final loss to Cal.

## IN SEARCH OF AN ALL-AMERICAN

As the calendar turned into October, Cook was still looking for someone to step forward and play like an All-American.

Junior Tara Mueller was a second-team All-American last season but has been

up and down this year. Cook says middle blocker Brooke Delano has the potential to be an All-American this season but hasn't quite reached it yet.

The Huskers relied on Jordan Larson last year to carry a big load, and before that it was Sarah Pavan. This year there is no Larson or Pavan on the roster.

"We either have to find somebody, or we have to do it together as a team," Cook said. "Those are the only two choices. Again, they're working at it and trying to figure it out."

"As a coach, you can't just fix it in a day. It's something that's going to happen at some point, so you have to stay with your plan." **N**

### 2009 VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

Aug. 22	Red/White Scrimmage, 7 p.m.
Aug. 28-29	Runza/AVCA Showcase
Aug. 28	*vs. Michigan, L, 3-0
Aug. 29	*vs. Minnesota, W, 3-2
Sept. 1	Creighton, W, 3-0
Sept. 4-5	at LSU Tournament
Sept. 4	vs. UL-Lafayette, W, 3-0
	at LSU, W, 3-2
Sept. 5	vs. Tulane, W, 3-0
Sept. 10-13	Ameritas Players Challenge
Sept. 10	Virginia, W, 3-0
Sept. 11	BYU, W, 3-1
Sept. 13	^UCLA, L, 3-2
Sept. 16	Texas Tech, W, 3-0
Sept. 19	at Colorado, W, 3-0
Sept. 23	at Texas A&M, L, 3-2
Sept. 26	Texas, L, 3-1
Sept. 30	at Oklahoma, W, 3-0
Oct. 7	Kansas, 7 p.m.
Oct. 10	Kansas State, 7 p.m.
Oct. 14	at Baylor, 7 p.m.
Oct. 17	at Missouri, 6:30 p.m.
Oct. 21	Iowa State, 7 p.m.
Oct. 24	Oklahoma, TBA
Oct. 28	at Texas Tech, 6:30 p.m.
Oct. 30	at Texas, 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 4	Missouri, 7 p.m.
Nov. 7	at Iowa State, TBA
Nov. 13	Texas A&M, 7 p.m.
Nov. 18	Baylor, 7 p.m.
Nov. 21	at Kansas, 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 25	at Kansas State, 7 p.m.
Nov. 28	Colorado, 7 p.m.
Dec. 4-5	NCAA 1st/2nd Rounds, TBA
Dec. 11-12	*NCAA Regionals, TBA
Dec. 17	NCAA Semifinals, Finals
	* at Qwest Center, Omaha
	^ at Bob Devaney Sports Center



# Basketball

MYLES HOLLEY

BY BRIAN ROSENTHAL

## Holley to bring new dimension for Huskers

**T**he budding basketball star who'd been dunking since middle school was confined to a wheelchair, and doctors were telling him he'd likely never play again.

Today, Myles Holley is preparing for his first season of Division I basketball.

The story behind his comeback?

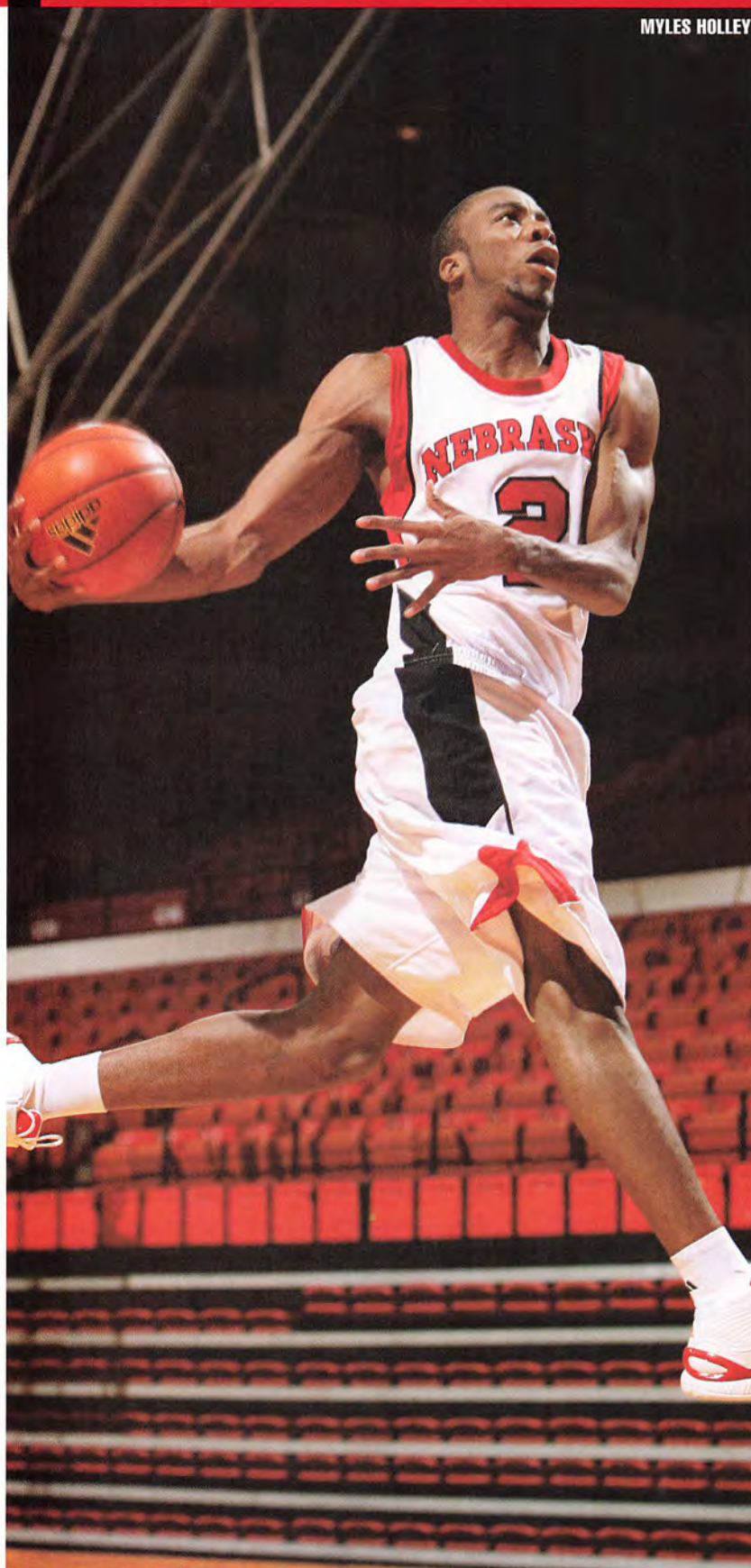
"Hard work and dedication," Holley said.

If Holley, a junior college transfer, earns a starting role in his first season with Nebraska, his work ethic will be a big reason. More so, probably, than the 6-foot-4 Holley's impressive athleticism – although that certainly won't hurt his chances to replace Ade Dagunduro on the wing.

"He can jump out of this gym," Nebraska senior Sek Henry said of Holley. "He can attack the glass and rebound, and he can dunk over the top of people."

"It's going to be really exciting, seeing somebody like Myles because I don't think we've had a player as athletic as Myles, who can really jump like that. If there's somebody with a long shot, he'll come in from the wing and get a tip-jam or something like that."

Nebraska coach Doc Sadler describes Holley as a "high-rising dude." He's equally impressed





with Holley's willingness to work.

"He's a sincere, tough kid who appreciates the opportunity he's been given," Sadler said. "He's not spoiled, unlike a lot of kids today. What he's gotten, he's worked hard for, and he understands that's what's gotten him here and that's what's going to continue to benefit him."

Holley's determination while recovering from a freak leg injury in 2004 is proof. Playing in a summer-league basketball game, Holley slipped on some water while going up for a dunk.

"My left leg just popped," he said, "and everybody said my knee looked dislocated."

Holley broke his tibia, dislocated his knee cap and fractured a small bone underneath his kneecap. He also tore his ACL, MCL and LCL.

Holley was bound to a wheelchair for two months, and his recovery was supposed to take 18 months. But within six months, he went from walking to light jogging to running to dunking.

"I was terrified," Holley said. "I was terrified to jump for a long time. But in talking to my high school coach and talking to my mom, they're like, 'You've gotta get over it. You either get over it or you're not going to play. Which one?'"

Holley, a native of Norfolk, Va., returned for the final five games of his sophomore season at Booker T. Washington High School. He averaged 15.1 points as a junior and 16.7 points and 7.4 rebounds as a senior, including 24.6 points and 13.5 rebounds in the post-season.

Holley played one season at Brunswick (N.C.) Community College, where he averaged 13.2 points and 9.5 rebounds. He played last season for a club team in Virginia, and comes to Nebraska with three seasons of eligibility.

"This year, I just want to play my role, learn the system a little bit," Holley said. "Next year, step up as a leader, and my senior year, be putting up (banners), trying to win championships."

Sadler said Holley might be a better shooter than he (Sadler) originally thought, although Holley isn't sure. He shot 59 percent in his one season of junior college basketball but attempted only nine shots from 3-point range.

"I just work hard; that's all I can say," Holley said. "I don't want to be called a shooter because I'm not. I just work hard. In my eyes, I can't shoot. I've still got a long ways to go."

Holley, though, won't deny teammates' reports of his high-flying acts.

"That's how I play. Above the rim," he said. "You think I would've learned my lesson from breaking my leg, but . . ."

## NU RECRUITING BIG MAN

Nebraska is in strong pursuit of Andre Almeida, a 6-10, 340-pound center from Sao Paulo, Brazil. He's preparing for his sophomore season at Arizona Western College.

Almeida was the Arizona Community College Athletic Conference player of the year as a freshman, when he averaged 13.7 points and eight rebounds. He led the ACCAC in field goal percentage (70.5) and blocked shots per game (3.5). Arizona Western was 25-5 overall, 18-4 in the ACCAC.

Nebraska has 14 players on scholarship this season, thanks to an NCAA waiver, but must return to 13 by 2010-11. The Huskers will lose two seniors and have an oral commitment from Kenyon McNeaill, a 6-1 point guard from Conway, Ark. That would put NU at the scholarship limit.

But in addition to Almeida, Nebraska is still pursuing Vander Joaquim, a

6-10 center who originally signed last November and is now attending College of Eastern Utah.

## MCCRAY INJURED

Sophomore Toney McCray suffered a torn ligament in his left (non-shooting) elbow on Sept. 10, an injury that's expected to sideline him 4 to 6 weeks. He was injured in an open-gym pick-up game at the Devaney Center.

McCray's injury is non-operative, meaning he'll undergo conservative treatment. When he returns, he'll play with a brace for 6 to 8 weeks. He's expected to be cleared for some conditioning before he returns to the court. **N**

### 2009 MEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Nov. 6	Arkansas-Fort Smith (exh.), 7 p.m.
Nov. 10	Hastings (exh.), 7 p.m.
Nov. 14	South Carolina Upstate, TBD
Nov. 18	at Saint Louis, TBD
Nov. 21	TCU, TBD
Nov. 24	UMKC, 7 p.m.
Nov. 29	at USC, TBD
Dec. 2	Texas-Pan American, 7 p.m.
Dec. 6	at Creighton, TBD
Dec. 10	Chicago State, 7 p.m.
Dec. 12	Oregon State, TBD
Dec. 19	Jackson State, 7 p.m. at Las Vegas Classic
Dec. 22	vs. Tulsa, 7 p.m.
Dec. 23	vs. BYU or Nevada, 7 or 9:30 p.m.
Dec. 29	Southern Utah, 7 p.m.
Jan. 2	Maryland Eastern Shore, TBD
Jan. 5	Southeastern Louisiana, 7 p.m.
Jan. 9	at Texas A&M, 3 p.m., Big 12 Network
Jan. 13	Kansas, 8 p.m., ESPN2
Jan. 16	Iowa State, TBD
Jan. 23	at Missouri, 5 p.m., Big 12 Network
Jan. 27	at Colorado, TBD
Jan. 30	Oklahoma, 12:30 p.m., Big 12 Network
Feb. 2	Kansas State, 7 p.m., Big 12 Network
Feb. 6	at Kansas, 5 p.m., ESPN2
Feb. 10	Baylor, 8 p.m., ESPN2
Feb. 13	at Texas, 3 p.m., Big 12 Network
Feb. 17	at Kansas State, TBD
Feb. 20	Missouri, 5 p.m., Big 12 Network
Feb. 24	at Iowa State, TBD
Feb. 27	Texas Tech, 3 p.m., Big 12 Network
Mar. 2	Colorado, TBD
Mar. 6	at Okla. St., 12:30 p.m., Big 12 Network at Big 12 Championship
Mar. 10-13	at Kansas City, Mo. (Sprint Center)



MARY KATE BIRD



## WOMEN'S GOLF Bird overcomes painful finish to 2008 season

BY TOMMY DAHLK

**S**ergio Garcia miraculously hit the green when his ball was up against a large tree during the final round of the 1999 PGA Championship in a head-to-head duel with Tiger Woods.

Nebraska junior Mary Kate Bird really doesn't share the same nostalgia Garcia does when she thinks about shots she's hit against trees.

Last year in the Lady Buckeye Spring Invitational, Bird, who boasted the Huskers' top season scoring

average, drove into the rough near a tree on the back nine.

Underneath the ball was a large tree root. However, Bird didn't see it when she set up for an approach shot.

Right after the Kansas City, Mo., native made contact, she felt pain in her wrist and noticed the large root rise up from the ground.

She finished the round, and before the start of the second 18, head coach Robin Krapfl noticed Bird couldn't take the lid off of a sharpie to record scores.

So, Bird withdrew and went back to Lincoln to get her wrist looked at. She later found out that she had torn



a muscle in her wrist. She was having trouble even holding glasses with it.

Just an hour before the team left for the Big 12 championships, Bird found out the injury would sideline her for the remainder of the spring.

Since she was playing the best golf of her Husker career, Bird said the injury was extra tough.

"Things were really coming together for me, and I was hitting the ball really well," she said. "It was definitely frustrating."

Bird couldn't start putting and chipping until early June and didn't play a competitive round until July.

Once she started playing again, Bird said thoughts of the injury kept creeping back.

"Every time I got out of the fairway, I was thinking about it," she said.

Krapfl said Bird is getting back to her old form in the Huskers' fall season and the toughest part of Bird's recovery was the mental aspects.

"More than the physical injury, it's just mentally being able to hit down into the ball and not have that fear of hurting it again," Krapfl said. "Once she played enough to realize she's not going to hurt it again, she's gotten back to where she was."

Now that she is back and both mentally and physically healthy, Bird said she's excited to finally help the Huskers in the Big 12 Championships.

"The injury was definitely a good learning experience and makes me appreciate the game that much more now," she said. **N**



**TOP:** Whitney Barrett helped lead the softball team to a perfect 8-0 record during the spring. **MIDDLE:** Nebraska unveiled a tile mural in the entrance of Memorial Stadium in conjunction with its 300th sellout. **BOTTOM:** Former Husker Brian Duensing pitches for the Minnesota Twins at Yankee Stadium in the first game of the American League Division Series. He was charged with the 7-2 loss after giving up 7 hits and 5 earned runs in 4.2 innings. (photo courtesy New York Yankees)





**HEROE'S WELCOME** - In his 1981 autobiography, Bob Devaney wrote that he "had been at Nebraska for five years" before finding out the Cornhuskers had lost to Stanford in the 1941 Rose Bowl game. Devaney was joking, of course, but the essence of what he said was accurate. The affection Nebraska fans had for their first bowl team transcended the hard-fought, 21-13 defeat before 92,000 in Pasadena, Calif., on New Year's Day. The loss was only the second of the season for the Huskers, who which lost to a Minnesota team (13-7 at Minneapolis) that would win the Associated Press national championship in 1940. Stanford finished the season undefeated, untied and ranked No. 2. The final rankings were released prior to bowl games, with Nebraska at No. 7. The Huskers probably should have been ranked higher. Coach "Biff" Jones' Huskers had dominated Big Six Conference opponents, outscoring them by a combined 127-21. The announcement that Nebraska was going to Pasadena set off a 24-hour celebration in Lincoln, despite snow and bitter cold. The Huskers returned, with fan enthusiasm undiminished, to a heroes' welcome.

## GAMES REMEMBERED

**Astro-Bluebonnet Bowl**  
Dec. 31, 1976 • at Houston, Texas



The second of four books Nebraska Athletic Director **TOM OSBORNE** has written is titled *On Solid Ground*. But the Hall of Fame coach wasn't on solid ground in 1976. In fact, had his Cornhuskers not won a first-ever meeting with Texas Tech, Osborne might not have been Nebraska's coach in 1977.

After the game, at Houston's Shamrock Hilton (team headquarters), a university regent's comment to Osborne seemed to suggest that a loss might have cost him his job.

The remark could have been "off-hand," Osborne told the Lincoln Journal Star some 30 years later, "or it could have been something that was dead serious."

Though the transition from **BOB DEVANEY** to Osborne had been relatively seamless - Osborne's record going to the Astro-Bluebonnet Bowl was 36-10-2 and his teams had continued streaks of nine or more victories and bowl appearances - he had yet to coach a victory against Oklahoma.

Osborne also was 1-3 against Missouri, and the frustration was compounded by the fact that the Cornhuskers had been No. 1 in the Associated Press pre-season rankings for 1976.

The great expectations were quickly dashed with a 6-6 tie at LSU to open the season. Nebraska climbed back to No. 3 with five consecutive victories before losing to Missouri, despite a fourth-quarter lead at home. A month later, after a loss at Iowa State, the

### Nebraska 27, Texas Tech 24

Nebraska	7	7	13	0	-	27
Texas Tech	3	14	7	0	-	24

(N)	Rick Berns 1 run (Al Eveland kick)
(TT)	Brian Hall 28 field goal
(TT)	Billy Taylor 14 pass Rodney Allison (Hall kick)
(TT)	Taylor 11 pass Allison (Hall)
(N)	Mark Dufresne 22 pass Vince Ferragamo (Eveland kick)
(TT)	Taylor 8 run (Hall kick)
(N)	Berns 18 run (kick failed)
(N)	Chuck Malito 23 pass Ferragamo (Eveland kick)

**Attendance:** 48,618

Cornhuskers led Oklahoma 17-7 after three quarters, only to lose 20-17. They finished the regular season 8-3-1 and ranked No. 13.

This time, they held their lead going into the fourth quarter, shutting out the Red Raiders, who missed a 37-yard field goal that would have tied the score with 4:33 remaining. Texas Tech had one last chance, taking over at its own 30-yard line with 1:44 remaining. But Nebraska's **RON PRUITT** sacked Red Raiders quarterback **RODNEY ELLISON**, who fumbled, and Reg Gast recovered.

**DO YOU REMEMBER? VINCE FERRAGAMO**, who earned All-America recognition from the Football News, completed 13-of-23 passes for 183 yards and two touchdowns. **RICK BERNES** rushed for 118 yards and two touchdowns.

**BILL PARCELLS** was Texas Tech's defensive coordinator, **STEVE SLOAN** the head coach.

The Astrodome, which covered 9½ acres, was home to the Bluebonnet Bowl for an eighth season. Prior to that, the game was played at Rice Stadium.









## THE FINAL WORD

BY MIKE BABCOCK

# Suh, Huskers working toward blackshirts

**A SHIRTLESS** Ndamukong Suh emerged from the locker room and passed by reporters eager to question him following Nebraska's 27-12 victory at Missouri.

Suh would return. He had to go to the team bus to get a shirt.

The shirt was red, and he pulled it on before sitting down under the small red tent set up just outside the locker room for post-game interviews.

Based on what had just transpired, on a sodden Faurot Field, Suh probably deserved to wear a Blackshirt, as did other members of the Cornhusker defense.

"That's three weeks in a row I think we've earned our Blackshirts, not doubt in my mind," said defensive coordinator Carl Pelini.

Would the coveted black practice jerseys be distributed on Monday?

"We'll see them shortly, I have no doubt," he said.

That decision ultimately is Bo Pelini's, however.

During his weekly news conference on the Monday before the Missouri game, Bo Pelini addressed the issue. "It's something you have to earn," he said. "You have to earn things over time.

"When that time comes, it's a feel thing."

And the defensive performance against Missouri had that feel.

Suh was a case in point. "He's a freak," Carl Pelini said.

"I mean, I've never seen anyone do anything . . . to stand at the line of scrimmage and jump and make an interception, the guy's amazing. It's not all coaching. He's just an amazing player."

Specifically, Carl Pelini was referring to a fourth-quarter interception of a Blaine Gabbert pass that set up the Cornhuskers' second touchdown at the Missouri 18-yard line.

Suh said he read Gabbert's eyes, caught the ball and went down to secure it.

The interception, the first of two on consecutive Gabbert passes – Dejon Gomes picked off the other on the next possession to set up Nebraska's third touchdown – might have been the most dramatic of Suh's accomplishments during the night.

But the senior defensive tackle was the bane of Gabbert's existence from the beginning. "My goal was to get in his face and cause havoc," said Suh. And so he did.

He finished with six tackles, including a 6-yard sack on the Tigers' second possession. He forced a fumble, which Jared Crick recovered. And he broke up a pass.

Often, Suh was double-teamed, usually by center Tim Barnes and right guard Kurtis Gregory. But he was rarely contained, pushing the linemen into the backfield, staring Gabbert in the face.

"That was as dominant a performance as I've ever seen," Carl Pelini said.

"Jared Crick wasn't far behind him. He was there along the way. That's a pretty good tandem.

"We've got them going right now."

Some two dozen NFL scouts were on-hand to see them going.

Suh, of course, considered leaving after his junior season by way of the NFL draft. Games such as this were a "huge reason" he decided to come back, Suh said.

On Monday, Bo Pelini was asked to define what being a Blackshirt meant.

"It represents playing to a very, very high standard, week in, week out," he said. "To me, it's as a unit. It's not an individual thing. To a certain extent it is, but it's about your unit.

"It's about that first group. It's about earning the right by how you're executing the type of football you're playing. That's how I see it."

As a group, the Cornhusker defenders limited Missouri to 225 yards. The Tigers managed only 2.6 yards per carry. And they're only touchdown was set up by a 38-yard pass play on which cornerback Prince Amukamara slipped on the wet artificial turf.

The play carried to the Nebraska 6-yard line, from which Missouri needed four plays to get into the end zone, as time in the half ran out – though even that was up for debate.

Blackshirts weren't handed out last season until after the Kansas game. And it's possible the team could go through an entire season without the practice jerseys.

"I think it will become obvious to me when that time is," said Bo Pelini.

The time could be now, after a victory that could be laid at the feet of the defense.

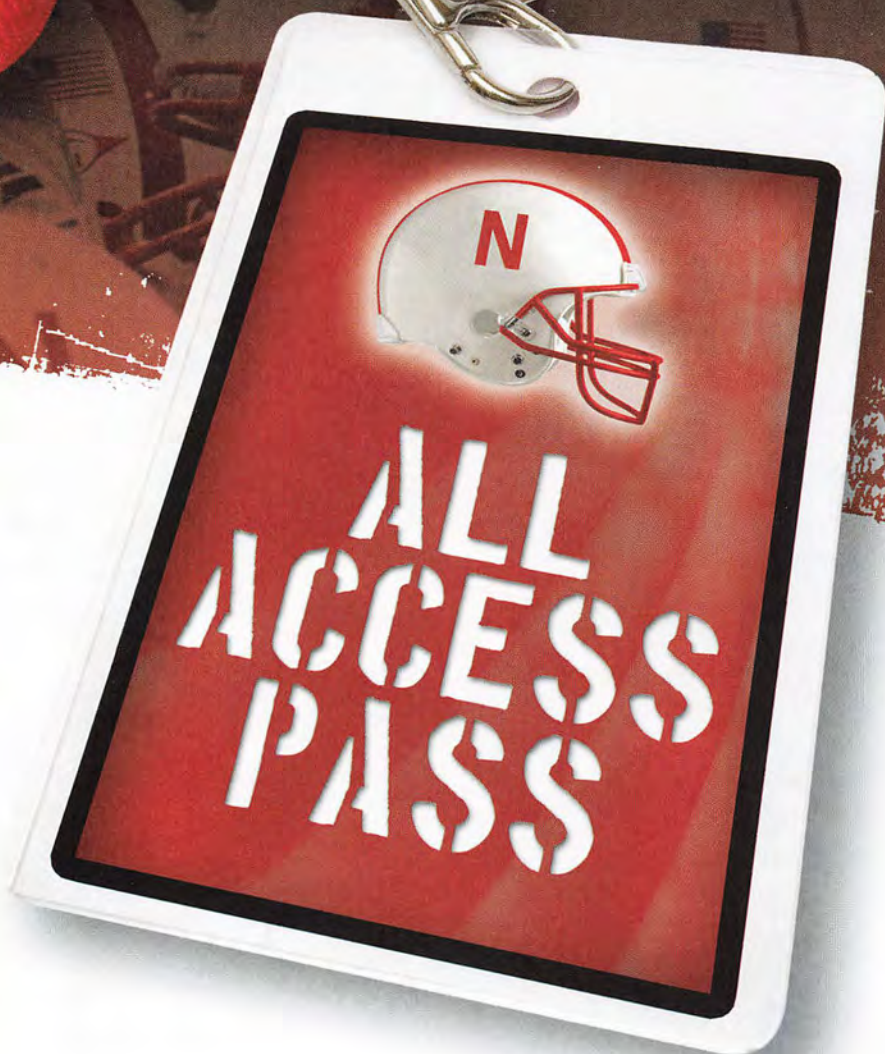
Suh was asked if the time had come.

"I don't know," he said with a laugh. "I mean, that's really up to Coach Bo's decision. But personally, I think, you could say yes, you could say no. I didn't have the best game.

"It's really up to Coach Bo. I'll leave it there." **N**



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#### 2009 Nebraska Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time/Results
Sat, Sep 05	Florida Atlantic	Memorial Stadium	W, 49-3
Sat, Sep 12	Arkansas State	Memorial Stadium	W, 38-9
Sat, Sep 19	at Virginia Tech	at Blacksburg, VA	L, 15-16
Sat, Sep 26	Louisiana-Lafayette	Memorial Stadium	W, 55-0
Thu, Oct 08	at Missouri *	at Columbia, MO	W, 27-20
Sat, Oct 17	Texas Tech *	Memorial Stadium	2:30 p.m.
Sat, Oct 24	Iowa State *	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Oct 31	at Baylor *	at Waco, TX	TBA
Sat, Nov 07	Oklahoma *	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Nov 14	at Kansas *	at Lawrence, KS	TBA
Sat, Nov 21	Kansas State *	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Fri, Nov 27	at Colorado *	at Boulder, CO	2:30 p.m., ABC
Sat, Dec 5	Big 12 Championship	Arlington, TX (Dallas Cowboys New Stadium)	TBA

\* Conference games



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